

## Electronic Death Registration

### ROVER Update

We were unable to meet our self-imposed January 3rd deadline for beginning to make ROVER available to the death certificate industry. Though this is disappointing to us, it is not altogether bad news.

With the help of our ROVER pilot funeral home and the Medical Examiner's Office, we have been able to test the many complex routes that a death certificate can travel on its way to registration. We found that ROVER could handle many of the challenges presented to it. However, it could not quite handle all of them. As a result, the development team has had opportunity to repair and refine and redesign and revisit problem areas in the system. With every new fix and tweak, ROVER gets better and better.

When ROVER is ready for release to the industry, our rollout process will be gradual. We will do this in an effort to make sure there are no major "bugs" in the system. We will begin ROVER implementation in the Oklahoma City Metro area. As we become comfortable with ROVER's performance, we

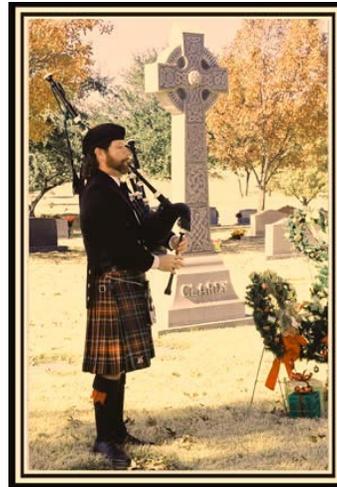
will roll it out to the Tulsa Metro, then to the other metropolitan areas (Lawton, McAlester, Enid). This will include as many of the surrounding facilities as possible. We will continue the implementation process until all facilities are registered and ready to use the system.

We hoped that this rollout process would begin on January 3rd. Confusion has arisen about this. Some in the industry believed that death registration was "going paperless" on that day all across the state. They were concerned that they would not be able to be in compliance with this "requirement." We wish to assure the industry that there was not a requirement to use ROVER beginning January 3rd and, therefore, there should be no concern about not being in compliance. According to State Law (HB 3171) funeral directors will be required to use ROVER beginning July 1, 2012. We have plenty of time to meet this requirement.

In the mean time, we will continue to develop and test ROVER with the help of our pilot funeral homes and the Medical

Examiner's Office. Their assistance has been invaluable to the process of making ROVER work. We thank them for their time and effort.

We continue to provide demonstrations of ROVER's functionality upon request. Please contact us if you would like to receive one of these demonstrations. We have also provided ROVER information brochures that you can pick up at any one of the Vital Records Offices in Oklahoma City, Tulsa, or McAlester.



### Hispanic Origin and Race are Not the Same

The Hispanic Origin and Race questions should be asked independently. "Hispanic" is not a race, and a decedent of Hispanic origin may be of any race. "Hispanic" is a self-designated classification for people whose origins are from Spain, the Spanish-speaking countries of Central or South

America, the Caribbean, or those identifying themselves generally as Spanish or Spanish American.

Consider the following scenario. A soldier who was Caucasian with ancestry from Mexico fought in the Korean War. He married a Korean woman who he brought back to

the United States. They had a son who grew up and who just passed away. You are completing the son's death certificate. Assuming the informant tells you all of this, what would be the answer for Item 13? What would be the answer for Item 14? A Hispanic White Korean? Absolutely!

### ROVER Training and Enrollment Team

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### ROVER System Requirements

For the system to run at optimal performance, your computer should have the following features:

- Internet Explorer 6.0 or later
- Adobe Acrobat Reader
- Laser Printer
- Broadband Internet Connection



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We Collect, Analyze, and Disseminate  
Health Statistics to Help Create a State of  
Health.

## Please Send Us Your E-mail Address

To be as efficient and inclusive as possible, we are collecting as many e-mail addresses as we can from funeral homes and physicians. This will allow us to broadcast mass communications, such as this newsletter. We're anticipating some 1000 users eventually being registered to use ROVER to complete death certificates. We must be able to disseminate information as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Please send your e-mail address to AskROVER@health.ok.gov. Also, please let us know if the e-mail address we may have for you needs to be changed and/or updated. This will be a constant "work in progress" and we thank you for your help.

### Issues With Decedent's Address

We have recently encountered confusion regarding the use of Rural Routes (RRs), Highway Carriers (HCs), and Post Office (PO) boxes in Item 8f of the death certificate. In accordance with federal guidelines, we offer the following:

- PO boxes are never allowed and will result in the death certificate being rejected.
- At this time, RRs and HCs with their corresponding box numbers will be allowed. However, once the county of residence has been assigned 911 addresses, these will be required for entry in Item 8f.

Please be aware that, due to the limitation of characters in the ROVER address field, we are not always able to enter directions as written on the current paper certificates.

### Examples of Occupation and Industry

Examples of usual occupations may include such things as claim adjuster, farmhand, coal miner, janitor, store manager, college professor, or civil engineer. Corresponding examples of industry would be insurance, farming, coal mining, hardware store, retail clothing, university, or government.

### Usual Occupation and Kind of Industry

Occupation and industry must be completed for decedents 14 years of age or older. This information is used to study deaths related to jobs. For example, this information identified the link between lung disease and asbestos exposure in shipbuilding and construction.

Item 16 - Decedent's Usual Occupation. Enter the usual occupation of decedent. This is not necessarily his/her last occupation. Never enter "retired." Enter kind of work decedent did during most of his/her working life. If decedent was a homemaker but had worked outside the household

during his/her working life, enter that occupation. If decedent was a homemaker and never worked outside the household, enter "homemaker." Enter "student" if decedent was a student at time of death and was never regularly employed or employed full time during his/her working life.

Item 17 - Kind of Business / Industry. Kind of business to which occupation in Item 16 is related. DO NOT enter organizations names. If decedent was a homemaker, enter either "own home" or "someone else's home" as appropriate. If decedent was a student, enter type of school.

OSDH is on the  
web at  
health.ok.gov

### Training and Education Visits by Field Services Staff SFY 2011 (July 1, 2010 - December 31, 2010)

