

# Certified Copies of Death Certificates

## *How many will you need?*

The original death certificate will be filed with the Clerk in the county where the death occurred and ultimately recorded with the State of Michigan. A sufficient number of **certified copies** should be ordered initially, as *photocopies* are generally not accepted for transferring assets or claiming life insurance.

**Certified copies** of death certificates are usually needed for the following:

- Transfer of real estate, property, houses, and land.
- Transfer of auto, boat, trailer, or camper titles.
- Transfer of stocks or bonds – one for each company.
- Each bank savings, checking or trust account.
- Credit Union accounts.
- Entry into bank safety deposit box.
- Settling of insurance claims – one for each company.
- Obtaining union benefits.
- Each insured loan and credit card.
- Filing Federal income tax returns.
- Social Security benefits.
- Veterans Administration benefits (in Michigan, one free copy of the death certificate for a veteran will be provided).
- To qualify for bereavement time for work or school.
- Personal requests from family members.

Additional **certified copies** can be obtained directly from the Clerk in county in which the death occurred or we can obtain them for you. In Michigan, each county sets its' own fee for issuing certified copies.