

**Department of Health
Disease Control and Health Statistics, Center for Health Statistics**

Policy Statement

<i>Title:</i>	Certified Copies of Vital Records for VA Claims	<i>Number:</i> CHS B-17
<i>References:</i>	RCW 70.58.107	
<i>Contact:</i>	Jean Remsbecker	
<i>Phone:</i>	(360) 236-4330	
<i>Email:</i>	jean.remsbecker@doh.wa.gov	
<i>Effective Date:</i>	April 1, 2015	
<i>Supercedes:</i>	N/A	
<i>Approved By:</i>	Christie Spice, Director	

Vital records law, RCW 70.58.107, requires the Department of Health (department) to provide certified copies of birth, death, fetal death, marriage, divorce, annulment or legal separation at no charge when requested in connection with a claim for compensation or pension pending before the Veterans Administration (VA).

In order to establish proof that a claim is pending before the VA and receive certified copies of vital records at no charge, requestors must provide the following information:

Requestor	Documentation Required
Person or family member with a claim pending	Letter from VA on official letterhead with claimants name and eligibility for VA benefits or DD214 for decedent that shows honorable discharge from military service and completed certificate order form that contains all the required information.
Agency working on behalf of person or family member	Letter from VA on official letterhead with information that the claimant named is eligible for VA benefits and completed certificate order form that contains all the required information.
Funeral Home Director	Letter from VA on official letterhead with claimants name and eligibility for VA benefits or DD214 for decedent that shows honorable discharge from military service and completed certificate order form that contains all the required information.

After review of the documentation and verification, if necessary, the department will issue certified copies of the required records to the requestor at no charge. The department will only issue the type of record required by the VA at no charge unless the letter from the VA clearly shows a need for more than one type of record. For example, if the VA requires a birth certificate, the requestor may not obtain a marriage certificate at no charge unless the VA explicitly requires it to process the claim. However, the requestor may purchase any other certificate(s) at the \$20 fee established in RCW 70.58.107 for other purposes. The requestor may submit additional requests for any new claim(s) as needed.