

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The National Technical Information Service (NTIS) has been notified by the Social Security Administration (SSA) of an upcoming important change in the Death Master File data. NTIS, a cost-recovery government agency, disseminates the DMF data on behalf of SSA.

Please see the attachment, provided by SSA, for an explanation of the change.

The implementation date of this change is November 1, 2011.

Should you have any questions, please email me at wstrickland@ntis.gov and I will be happy to forward any questions not answered by the attachment to the Social Security Administration for reply.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: CHANGE IN PUBLIC DEATH MASTER FILE RECORDS

We receive Death Master File (DMF) data from the Social Security Administration (SSA). SSA receives death reports from various sources, including family members, funeral homes, hospitals, and financial institutions.

Q: What change is SSA making to the Public DMF?

A: Effective November 1, 2011, the DMF data that we receive from SSA will no longer contain protected state death records. Section 205(r) of the Act prohibits SSA from disclosing state death records SSA receives through its contracts with the states, except in limited circumstances. (Section 205r link - http://www.ssa.gov/OP_Home/ssact/title02/0205.htm)

Q: How will this change affect the size of the Public DMF?

A: The historical Public DMF contains 89 million records. SSA will remove approximately 4.2 million records from this file and add about 1 million fewer records annually.

REMINDER: DMF users should always investigate and verify the death listed before taking any adverse action against any individual.