

## **Information regarding death certificates**

A death certificate is a legal document. It confirms the death of an individual and by law contains certain vital statistical information. This information is obtained at the arrangement conference from the legal next of kin of the deceased. The death certificate is then signed by the attending physician, county coroner/deputy coroner or the medical examiner. Penttila's Chapel by The Sea then files the certificate with the county health department which issues **certificated copies of death**. The county charges for each certificate and other charges may apply.

*A death certificate may be needed for--*

**BANK ACCOUNTS:** savings, checking, CDs, safe deposit box. Most local banks will make a copy when provided with an original.

**INSURANCE:** life insurance, credit life, trusts. Original usually required.

**PERSONAL PROPERTY:** in the event of the sale of land, home, automobile, boat, etc. or when the decedent's name needs to be removed from said property or documents.

**SECURITIES:** stocks, bonds, annuities. Original usually required for each transaction or each investment firm.

**VETERAN'S CLAIMS:** Penttila's Chapel routinely notifies the Veterans Administration of all deaths of veterans. Death certificate not needed.

**SOCIAL SECURITY:** death certificate NOT needed. By law within 72 hours of death, Penttila's Chapel notifies the regional Social Security office (Statement of Death by Funeral Director). Depending on the individual situation, if there is a surviving spouse, that individual may be eligible for a survivor's death benefit (\$255.) or an additional spouse benefit. The surviving spouse should call the Astoria Social Security office at **503/325-8845 (115 West Bond St.)** approximately TEN DAYS after the death has occurred and apply for any benefits by phone. Remember that Social Security benefits vary with the individual situation.

WHENEVER POSSIBLE ask the company, agency or individual which you are dealing with if they will accept a COPY MACHINE copy of the original. DO NOT voluntarily provide an original if they will make or accept a copy. Should you have any questions regarding death certificates, please contact **Penttila's Chapel at 360/642-8885 or 800/598-6064.**