

## THE BASICS

Illinois law requires **BIRTH** and **DEATH** records to be registered with the Local Registrar within 7 days, no exceptions. (410 ILCS 535/12)

Hospitals must comply with state laws regarding the disposal of FETAL and INFANT remains.

## THE PROBLEM

FETAL and INFANT DEATHS are not being registered within the required time frame.

Hospitals should not store fetal and infant remains without filing the appropriate documentation, as determined by gestational age.

## THE SOLUTION

Initiate the death or fetal death record so that **ALL** death events are registered within 7 days, per State law.

Refer to “**Hospital Reporting Requirements for Fetal and Infant Deaths**” on page 2 for additional guidance.

## DEFINITIONS

**"Live birth"** means the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of human conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy, which after such separation breathes or shows any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles, whether or not the umbilical cord has been cut or the placenta is attached.

**"Fetal death"** means death prior to the complete expulsion or extraction from its mother of a product of human conception, irrespective of the duration of pregnancy; the death is indicated by the fact that after such separation the fetus does not breathe or show any other evidence of life such as beating of the heart, pulsation of the umbilical cord, or definite movement of voluntary muscles.

## RESOURCES

Click the links below

[Illinois Vital Records Act](#)  
410 IL Compiled Statutes, part 535

[Illinois Vital Records Code](#)  
Title 77, Chap. 1e, part 500

[Illinois Hospital Licensing Act](#)  
210 IL Compiled Statutes, part 85

[Illinois Counties Code](#)  
55 IL Compiled Statutes, part 5  
(When a death is under the jurisdiction of a Coroner/Medical Examiner - Division 3-3)

### For Assistance contact:

Illinois Department of Public Health  
Division of Vital Records  
[DPH.VITALS@illinois.gov](mailto:DPH.VITALS@illinois.gov)

Phone: 800-237-1945

# Hospital Reporting Requirements for Fetal and Infant Deaths



TYPE OF EVENT	VR111 FETAL DEATH DISPOSITION NOTIFICATION FORM	DISPOSITION TYPE	FETAL DEATH CERTIFICATE
<b>LIVE BIRTH</b> (regardless of gestation)  <b>then DEATH</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>HOSPITAL DISPOSITION:</b> A hospital may be authorized to incinerate the body of an infant who dies immediately after birth and prior to release from the hospital. The disposition permit may be issued only by a Local Registrar to a funeral director upon the filing of the death certificate.	<p align="center"><b>NO</b></p> <b>BIRTH CERTIFICATE</b> filed within 7 days of the birth with Local Registrar.  <b>DEATH CERTIFICATE</b> must be filed with the Local Registrar by an Illinois-licensed Funeral Director within 7 days of the date of death. Physicians are required to sign within 48 hours of the death.
<b>FETAL DEATH UNDER 20 WEEKS GESTATION</b> (spontaneous loss)	<b>YES</b>	<b>HOSPITAL DISPOSITION:</b> Mother opts for the hospital to handle the disposal of remains. <b>REFER TO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:</b>	<p align="center"><b>Dependent upon Group or Individual disposal</b></p>
		<b>GROUP BURIAL or GROUP CREMATION</b> - hospital must provide a copy of each VR111 to an IL-licensed Funeral Director to obtain one burial or cremation permit.	<p align="center"><b>NO</b></p>
		<b>INDIVIDUAL BURIAL or INDIVIDUAL CREMATION</b> of fetal remains, other than hospital disposition, an Illinois-licensed Funeral Director must be contacted in order to complete a "Fetal Death Certificate" within 7 days of the death.	<p align="center"><b>YES</b></p> Physician must sign Fetal Death Certificate within 24 hours of the delivery. Certificate/worksheet is provided to the Funeral Director as soon as possible for filing with the Local Registrar within 7 days of the event.
<b>FETAL DEATH 20 WEEKS + GESTATION</b> (spontaneous loss)	<b>YES</b>	<b>PRIVATE DISPOSITION:</b> Mother opts for a Funeral Director to handle disposal of remains.	<p align="center"><b>YES</b></p> Physician must sign Fetal Death Certificate within 24 hours of the delivery. Certificate/worksheet is provided to the Funeral Director as soon as possible for filing with the Local Registrar within 7 days of the event.
	<b>NO</b>	<b>HOSPITAL DISPOSITION:</b> Hospital may offer to handle disposal of remains. Body <b>MUST NOT</b> be disposed of until the disposition permit is provided to the Hospital. An Illinois-licensed Funeral Director must be contacted in order to complete a "Fetal Death Certificate" within 7 days of the death.	<p align="center"><b>YES</b></p> Physician must sign Fetal Death Certificate within 24 hours of the delivery. Certificate/worksheet is provided to the Funeral Director as soon as possible for filing with the Local Registrar within 7 days of the event. Once filed, Funeral Director provides the disposition permit to the hospital.
<b>FETAL DEATH 20 WEEKS + GESTATION</b> (spontaneous loss)	<b>NO</b>	<b>PRIVATE DISPOSITION:</b> Funeral Director to handle disposal of remains.	<p align="center"><b>YES</b></p> Physician must sign Fetal Death Certificate within 24 hours of the delivery. Certificate/worksheet is provided to the Funeral Director as soon as possible for filing with the Local Registrar within 7 days of the event.