

641—95.7 (144) General public access of vital records in the custody of the county registrar. A vital record may be in the custody of the county registrar if the event occurred in that county and the record is not excluded by statute or definition for purposes of confidentiality.

95.7(1) There shall be public access and the right to inspect in person all vital records in the custody of the county registrar after they are purged of confidential information.

95.7(2) Electronic devices, including but not limited to scanners, cameras, tablets, cellular phones or laptops, shall not be used to secure images or copies from county vital records. Laptops or like devices may be allowed only for purposes of typing information into a genealogy software program or electronic document and as directed by the state registrar or county registrar.

95.7(3) Information inspected and copied shall not be published or used to establish an index or record of information at any other location except as authorized by Iowa Code chapter 144.

95.7(4) County registrars may issue uncertified copies of vital records held in the registrars' physical custody or accessible through the electronic statewide vital records system, except those records excluded by statute or at the direction of the state registrar.

a. Requests for uncertified copies shall be accepted solely through in-person application after the applicant has conducted the applicant's own search for the record at the county registrar's office.

b. Uncertified copies shall be issued on plain white paper and clearly stamped "not for legal purposes." Security paper provided by the state registrar shall not be used to produce records for uncertified copies.

95.7(5) County registrars shall not provide specific information from any vital record via telephone, fax, electronic file, Web site, written letter or verbally, except for administrative purposes with the state vital records office.

95.7(6) County registrars shall not produce lists of vital records for any agency, private business, or member of the general public.

95.7(7) For records available in the electronic statewide vital records system, the state registrar shall send to the county registrars a list of all records that have been modified. County registrars shall, as directed by the state registrar, remove all forms of any vital record in their physical custody from the county vital records system if the vital record appears on the list of modified records. The county registrar shall allow the general public access to the electronic statewide vital records system to search as a public user as a right under Iowa Code chapter 22.

95.7(8) For records not available in the electronic statewide vital records system, the state registrar shall send a copy of any modified vital record to the county of event and, if the record is a death record, to the county of residence.