

Information on Coroner Changing Death Certificates – Provided by Alyssa Bethel

California: Coroner files a form with the Department of Public Health to change.

Texas: An amending certificate may be filed to complete or correct a record that is incomplete or proved by satisfactory evidence to be inaccurate. It appears the Department of State Health Services determines what is satisfactory evidence.

Illinois: Coroner requests to amend the death certificate; the State Registrar makes the final determination of whether the submitted evidence satisfactorily proves the correction sought.

Florida: Coroner submits form to the Department of Health-Bureau of Vital Statistics with detailed explanation to justify why amending the death record.

New York: Unless correcting an error made in completing the certificate, the coroner needs a court order.

Michigan: Coroner must submit an application, with supporting evidence, to the Department of Health and Human Services. The Department reviews the evidence and approves or denies the application.

Indiana: The coroner may amend by signing and refiling death certificate.

Kentucky: If death occurred within five years, coroner may file a form to amend cause of death; after five years, cause of death can be changed only by court order.

West Virginia: Coroner may amend cause of death “but only for accuracy” (the law specifically says this).

Pennsylvania: Coroner may amend cause of death by submitting a written statement. If the correction changes the death from “natural causes” to any other cause, the coroner must include an affidavit.