



What's the Bright Idea?

Attention: Genealogist, Researchers & Historical Investigators

Join the cause with **People for Better Pennsylvania Historical Records Access** (PaHR-Access) to make older, state Death Certificates available online!

We are trying to get the Pennsylvania state death certificates that are at least 50 years old (currently that means from 1906-1959) to become open records and available online similar to how the states of Arizona, Georgia, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Texas, Utah and West Virginia have already done. For approximately 30 other states there are extracted data and/or indexes of death records online.

We are sure many of you have experienced the frustration of having to provide several pieces of information (including when and where the person died) when quite often the very information you are asked to supply is the information you are looking for and the reason for your wanting the death certificate. Probably many of you have either have been told the death certificate couldn't be found or sent the wrong certificate. In general, because of the many burdensome and paradoxical restrictions the public has not able to use these historic records as much as they should be able to. Worst of all these restrictions are true for all Pennsylvania state death certificates regardless of how long ago the person died.

If you live in Pennsylvania, please contact both your state senator and your state representative in person, by letter, by phone or, at the very least, by e-mail. Everyone, including out of state residents, should write, phone or at least e-mail the Governor and even the Division of Vital Records. Naturally, the more letters and other forms of contact that are made and the more people involved, the better.

Addresses, FAQ, sample letters, forms, links and considerably more information can be found at:

users.rcn.com/timarg/PaHR-Access
(or search "PaHR-Access")

If you have any questions please contact the spokesperson for PaHR-Access:

Tim Gruber
(610) 791-9294
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If you contact any representatives, please send a copy of your letter and/or CC Tim Gruber on the e-mail contact at **timarg@rcn.com**