



# Claim & City Burial Request Checklist for Long Term Care Facilities & Nursing Homes

**OCME FAX NUMBER:  
(646) 500-5762**

## General

- ✓ This guidance is for Long Term Care Facilities and Nursing Homes, if you are a Hospital with a BCP please DO NOT follow these instructions, there is separate guidance and fax instructions for BCP casework.
- ✓ ALL spellings of names, dates and times of birth / death must agree throughout ALL paperwork: cover letter, face sheet, clinical summary worksheet, death certificate, burial permit.
- ✓ All required decedent paperwork must be faxed to OCME Communications at **646-500-5762** as soon as possible. Pick up of the decedents CANNOT occur until all the following paperwork is completed.
- ✓ Please submit **only** the documents requested based upon the case type. Please do not attach any additional medical records or otherwise unsolicited documentation.
- ✓ **Once competent paperwork is received, we will pick up remains as operations allow. Please begin organizing a contingency plan with funeral homes in the event that the pick-up is delayed.**
- ✓ If a Funeral Home cannot pick up a decedent within 48 hours, and you do not have refrigeration, speak with both the family and the Funeral Home and indicate that you will be putting in claim paperwork to the OCME.
- ✓ Do not keep faxing the same paperwork over and over, please wait for OCME follow up.

## Key Points to Remember

- ✓ Send over the paperwork as soon as possible. Do not send over incomplete or partially done paperwork.
- ✓ **Do not call OCME.** We will process your paperwork as soon as possible.
- ✓ Do not provide a general phone number that you can be reached at, you must provide a DIRECT line to someone who can answer questions regarding cases you are submitting paperwork for.
- ✓ If you do not have refrigeration at your facility, please indicate this by writing **NO REFRIGERATION on the Fax Cover Sheet.**
- ✓ Please include a contact name and number for a **DIRECT phone line** to an individual who can fix paperwork issues.
- ✓ You must submit via fax to (646) 500-5762:

**Send the following paperwork as ONE fax (not as separate ones)**

- 1. Facility Face Sheet (see below for instructions)**
- 2. Completed OCME Clinical Summary Worksheet 3.0**
- 3. A work copy of the signed Death Certificate**
- 4. The Burial Permit completed for City Burial**

## Fax Cover Sheet

- ✓ Please indicate the name of your nursing home (NH).
  - If your NH is required to use the electronic death registration system, please submit the name as it is registered with the Department of Health in e-Vital.
- ✓ Please include a contact person and phone number.
  - Please note that the Nursing Home general line is NOT acceptable. **OCME requests a direct line or extension so that we can promptly address any paperwork concerns.**
- ✓ Indicate if your facility has a refrigerated morgue space or if there is **no refrigeration.**

## Facility Face Sheet

- ✓ This is generated from the Nursing Home or Long Term Care Facility
- ✓ This is not something provided by the OCME
- ✓ It is often a 1- or 2-page sheet that you have as a facility that has basic patient admitting information (name, DOB, NOK information, name of their doctor, etc.)

## Clinical Summary Worksheet

- ✓ Please complete **only** the required sections. **Section E is not required** for claim cases.
- ✓ Please indicate '**unknown**' in fields where you do not have the requested information. Do not leave fields blank.
- ✓ OCME requires the medical record number for all decedents coming to OCME from a nursing home.
- ✓ OCME requests any aliases known to be used by the decedent.
- ✓ OCME requests as much next-of-kin (name and contact) information as possible:
  - Where the NOK are known, the HCF must notify the NOK of the death. **Failure to notify NOK of the death of their loved one interferes with the NOK's right to direct final disposition without delay and may therefore be a violation of the NOK's right of sepulchre.** If the HCF was unable to reach the NOK, all notification attempts **must** be documented.
  - **Where the NOK are unknown and the HCF is requesting city burial for the decedent, the HCF shall notify the Public Administrator (PA) of the death and document notification as indicated.**

### Public Administrator Contact Numbers by Borough:

- Manhattan – 212-788-8430
- Bronx – 718-293-7660
- Brooklyn – 718-643-3032
- Queens – 718-526-5037
- Staten Island – 718-876-7228

- ✓ Please provide all available contact information for NOK, PA and NH so that OCME can follow up, as appropriate.
- ✓ Please provide a response ("Yes" or "No") for all screening questions.
- ✓ **If the case is COVID-19 positive**, you should select NO to the question in the Clinical Summary Worksheet Section D regarding public health. While this is a public health issue, selecting yes will cause this case to be flagged as a possible ME case, which will delay its processing.

yes  no  Does the death pose a threat to public health, such as bacterial meningitis?

- ✓ Please ensure that the form is signed.

## Death Certificate

- ✓ Please ensure that the method and place of disposition on the death certificate matches the burial permit.

\* per the memo dated March 31, 2020 issued by Dr. Graham, First Deputy Chief Medical Examiner for the Office of Chief Medical Examiner, "for all claim only decedents, the required competent burial permit should now and until further notice be registered with the following disposition":

DC Field	What should be entered
21a Method of Disposition	Interment / City Burial
21b Place of Disposition	City Cemetery at Hart Island
22a Funeral Establishment	Office of Chief Medical Examiner
22b Address	520 1 <sup>st</sup> Ave, NY, NY 10016

## Burial Permit

- ✓ Please ensure that the method and place of disposition on the burial permit matches the death certificate

Type of Disposition	Method of Disposition	Place of Disposition
City Burial	Interment / City Burial	City Cemetery at Hart Island

## In Closing

- ✓ If any of the above requirements are not met, the case cannot be accepted by OCME.
- ✓ Please visit the OCME official website which includes a “Case Reporting Criteria for Clinicians” page and the clinical summary worksheet and instructions at [www.nyc.gov/ocmereportacase](http://www.nyc.gov/ocmereportacase).

*OCME's responsibility as the City mortuary includes caring for all remains in our custody with dignity and respect. There may be times in this work when remains are unidentified and/or unclaimed.*

*As we aim to accommodate the many New Yorkers who have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the New York City Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) will provide temporary storage of a decedent for up to 14 days. If a decedent has not been claimed within 14 days, the decedent will be transferred for temporary interment at City Cemetery.*

*A request to disinter a decedent for private final disposition can be submitted directly by a funeral director to the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. There will be no charge to the claimant for disinterment. A decedent may alternatively remain at City Cemetery for final disposition; no additional notification to OCME is required*