Good morning!

Thank you for your correspondence received on June 3, 2019, requesting a copy of Nebraska’s death index, database extracts, and scans of images. You made your request pursuant to the Federal Freedom of Information Act. Although this federal law does not apply to state agencies, the State of Nebraska has its own public records law. We will be happy to review your request within the ambit of our state law. Those statutes may be found at Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84-712, et seq.

DHHS does not have an index for death records. DHHS has death records through the present day. The agency is withholding access to our database and copies of this information pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 71-612(1), which only permits the release of a certified copy of the record for a proper purpose upon payment of the statutory fee. Documents can be reviewed, but a fee must be paid for each record reviewed and the documents cannot be removed from the premises and copies cannot be made. If you would like to review a document(s), you may do so at our office located at 1033 O Street, Suite 130, Lincoln, NE 68508.

If you believe the withholding of information requested is in error, you have the right, pursuant to Nebraska Revised Statute § 84-712.03, to appeal the decision by filing for relief by a writ of mandamus in the District Court in Lancaster County, Nebraska or to petition the Nebraska Attorney General for review of this denial. For the purpose of an appeal, Russ Fosler is the State official responsible for the decision to deny any portion of your request.

Please be advised that public records law allows for a charge for the actual cost of collecting, reproducing, and mailing the records you have requested; however there is no cost for this request.

Jaime Heg | Attorney

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