

Alec Ferretti

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Freedom of Information Officer
Nebraska Department of Health & Human Services
PO Box 95026
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-5026

To whom it may concern,

Pursuant to Nebraska's Freedom of Information Law, I hereby request a copy of the Nebraska Death Index and/or finding aid to deaths, from its onset (which I believe is in 1904) to 1968. Although recent death certificates are not public records in Nebraska, those that are more than 50 years old are public records, as per Title 174, Chapter 3, Section 4.06.

I do not know the exact circumstances of how Nebraska death certificates are organized, but presumably, they were filed sequentially, and then at a later date, microfilmed. In order to locate a specific death certificate, clerks would need to use some sort of index, that typically includes but is not limited to an alphabetical listing of the name of the deceased, along with information such as the date & location of death, age, and certificate number. This index was often printed in books, on microfiche, or on microfilm, and at a later date, potentially digitized, either as scanned images of these analog indexes, or put into a database.

Under ideal circumstances, you can provide for me a database extract of this requested death data, for all years, including any and all fields that are public records - which in the case of deaths before 1968, should be all fields. For any or all years in which there is not a database, I would like to receive scans of images of the indexes, if they exist. Otherwise, I would like to obtain copies of microfilmed indexes, if those exist. If the death indexes do not exist in any digital or microfilmed format, please let me know in what way they can be most cheaply and/or effectively duplicated. Regardless of format, please provide for me an estimate of all costs before proceeding to copy records.

To reiterate, these records are public records under Nebraska's Public Records Laws, which define public records as "all records and documents,

regardless of physical form, of or belonging to the state and its various political subdivisions, departments, boards, and commissions.” Please see the attached opinions written by the Nebraska Department of Justice affirming that public vital records are in fact public records.

If possible, please respond to this letter by email, because I will be out of the country for much of June. I expect a response within four business days, as required by law. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Alec Ferretti