

STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Prevention and Community Health

Office of Healthy Communities

Post Office Box 47855

Olympia, Washington 98504-7855

Date:

To:

Re: Request for medical records from the Washington State Maternal Mortality Review for public health activity

Attn: Medical Records

The Washington State Department of Health (DOH) administrates the Maternal Mortality Review Panel under RCW 70.54.450. This law, which was passed by the legislature in March 2016, calls for “comprehensive, multidisciplinary reviews of maternal deaths in Washington to identify factors associated with those deaths and make recommendations for system changes to improve health care services for women in this state.”

The new [law](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2015&bill=6534) requires the Maternal Mortality Review Panel to review the deaths of women who died within a year of pregnancy or child birth. To conduct the review, the bill authorizes the Department of Health to obtain records and data from a variety of sources, including health care providers and facilities, local health departments, coroner and medical examiners offices, and other medical and professional facilities licensed. See RCW 70.54.450(5)(a)(b). “Covered entities,” including covered entities that are part of the Military Health System, may disclose the requested records without patient authorization because the Department of Health is authorized by law to obtain these records to carry out the public health activities described in RCW 70.54.450. See 45 CFR §164.512 (b); *DoD 6025.18-R,* paragraph C7.2.1.1 (Jan. 24, 2003). Information, documents, and records obtained by the Department of Health for the purposes of this review are protected by RCW 70.54.450,will remain confidential and are not subject to public inspection, copying, or introduction into evidence in any civil or criminal court proceedings.

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| **Please send all available records on the following patients:** | | **Send all records via mail to:**  **Maternal Mortality Review**  **Department of Health**  **Attn: Alexis Bates**  **PO Box 47880**  **310 Israel Rd SE**  **Tumwater, WA 98501** |
| Name | Date of Birth |
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For questions or more information please contact Alexis Bates, Perinatal Health Coordinator at the Office of Health Communities by email at [alexis.bates@doh.wa.gov](mailto:alexis.bates@doh.wa.gov) or by phone at (360)-236-3510. Information can also be found at our website [www.doh.wa.gov/maternalmortality](http://www.doh.wa.gov/maternalmortality)

Thank you for your assistance with this important health measure,

Alexis Bates, MA

Perinatal Health Coordinator

Office of Healthy Communities

Washington State Department of Health