

8. It is found that §1-15, G.S., confers upon any person a right to obtain copies of public records, in addition to any right conferred upon genealogists by §7-41a, G.S.

9. It is further found that a death certificate is a public record within the meaning of §1-18a(d).

10. It is concluded that the respondent department's practice of requiring genealogists to appear at its Hartford office in order to obtain copies of death certificates violates §1-15, G.S., which extends the right to obtain copies to any person, not just persons who can travel to such respondent's Hartford office.

The following order of the Commission is hereby recommended on the basis of the record concerning the the above captioned complaint:

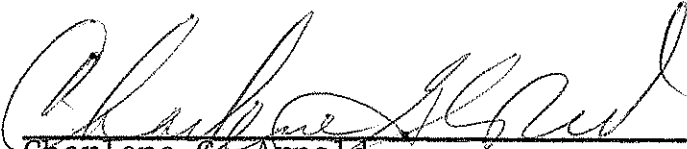
1. Henceforth, the respondent department shall strictly comply with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, as codified in Chapter 3 of the General Statutes, by mailing copies of death certificates to persons who request the same in writing and who tender an appropriate fee, rather than requiring such persons to travel to the respondent's Hartford office to obtain the requested copies.



Commissioner Helen M. Loy

as Hearing Officer

Approved by order of the Freedom of Information Commission on
December 19, 1977.



Charlene C. Arnold
Clerk of the Commission