

Fact Sheet:

Information About Death Records Related to Student Deaths at Indian Residential Schools

This fact sheet is intended to assist Indigenous communities, organizations or family members interested in locating death records, or registrations of deaths, for children who attended Indian Residential Schools in Ontario.

The tragic legacy of Indian Residential Schools continues to be a source of pain and suffering within Indigenous communities. As the heartbreaking work of burial investigations continues, it is important that all people in Ontario continue to deepen our collective understanding of the legacy of the Indian Residential School system.

Health support information:

If you need emotional support, the **National Indian Residential School Crisis Line** provides 24-hour crisis support to Indian Residential School Survivors and their families toll-free at 1-866-925-4419.

Hope for Wellness Helpline is available 24/7 to all Indigenous people across Canada. Experienced and culturally competent counsellors are reachable for live online chats or by telephone at 1-855-242-3310.

What is a death record?

A death record generally contains all the registered information of the death and cause of death information (if available), including a Statement of Death and a Medical Certificate of Death. Please note that all information may not have been recorded when the death was registered. The information in the death records may be incomplete, entered on the wrong line, or incorrect.

In most cases, a death record does not include information to indicate whether the individual was Indigenous or if they attended an Indian Residential School.

How do I request a search for a death record?

Indigenous communities, organizations, or family members of a deceased child will need to complete a **Search for Death Records** application to request a search for a death record.

You can request a Search for Death Records online through our website, by mail or by fax.

Online:

- Complete and save the Search for Death Records application.
- Upload your completed application online through a **Request certificate services (without payment)** at: **Ontario.ca/IDforms**

Please follow the steps described on the website:

- Provide the Applicant details in Section 1 through Section 5.
- Upload your Search for Death Records application in Section 4.

By Mail:

You may submit your completed application by mail to:

**Service Ontario,
Office of the Registrar General**
Attn: Service Delivery Manager
189 Red River Road, PO Box 4600
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6L8

By Fax:

You may fax your completed application to the Office of the Registrar General at 1-807-343-7411.

- Include a cover sheet to your fax that is addressed to "Attn: Service Delivery Manager".

Documents provided:

Upon completion of the request, the applicant will receive one of the following:

- **If no record is found:**
 - A **Search Letter** will be issued indicating that a record was not located based on the information provided.
- **If a record is found:**
 - A **Death Certificate** will be issued for a record registered in the last 70 years. A death certificate contains the deceased's name, place of death, date of death, sex, age at time of death, marital status.

OR

- A **Copy of a Death Registration** will be issued for a record older than 70 years. The copy may include the deceased's name, age, sex, religious affiliation, rank or profession, birthplace, cause of death, name and description of informant, registrar's name, date registered and county/district of registration.

How do I apply for a certified copy of a death registration?

For death records registered in the last 70 years:

Once a search has been conducted and a death record has been located, you may request a certified copy of the death registration by completing a **Next of Kin Authorization Form** for each child.

A certified copy of death registration contains all registered information about the death. A certified copy of death registration is only available to family members (i.e., Next-of-Kin) or their authorized representative. If available, the Medical Certificate of Death with cause of death information will also be issued as part of the certified copy. Older records may not have a Medical Certificate of Death.

If you have any questions, please contact: Records.Search@ontario.ca or call 1-833-415-7450.

For death records registered 70 or more years ago:

A Certification package (used for legal purposes to validate the authenticity of a copy in lieu of the original record): (1) copy of the death registration and (2) an affixed Certification document.

A certified copy of a death registration will only be provided upon request. If you require a certified copy, please contact AO.indigenousrecords@ontario.ca.

Cost and delivery:

A request for a Search of Death Records will take approximately 6-8 weeks to complete from date of receipt. Due to the nature of these requests, it may take longer to locate a particular record. Requests with 15 or more searches may take longer to complete.

There are no fees for Indigenous communities, organizations, or family members for a search or any documents issued using an application for a Search for Death Records.

For more information, please email:

Records.Search@ontario.ca

Additional information about archival death records (older than 70 years):

Death records older than 70 years are open to the public. To conduct your own search of these records, you can access them in the following ways:

On microfilm:

- In the [Archives of Ontario reading room](#).
- Via the [Interloan Microfilm Service](#). This service allows you to borrow microfilmed archival records through a library or another institution belonging to the interlibrary loan network. Check with your local library or check for participating [Ontario Public Libraries](#).

Online:

- [Ancestry.ca](#) website. Free access is available in the Archives of Ontario reading room and at all [Ontario public libraries](#).
- [FamilySearch](#) website