When Were Statewide Death Registrations Required

If you are looking for death certificates, you need to know the timing of each state's requirements. Each state in the U.S. started requiring death registrations in different years. Usually some type of records were created prior to the official state laws, either at the county, city, or town levels. But state records weren't required until a law was passed. Furthermore, even though registrations and certificates were mandated, general compliance was not achieved by all entities for just a few years or even a few decades in some instance.

Below is a chart that lists the state and when registration was required. Also listed is a link to further information about each state's death records, especially where you might find them prior to state registration. The FamilySearch Wiki has a page for each state with this information. I have included a state level information site for some of the states. If you want to see the Wiki entry, just modify the state name in the URL for FamilySearch.

State	Year	Source
Alabama	1908	https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/vitalrecords/death-certificates.html#:~:text=The%20Alabama%20Center%20for%20Health,persons%20who%20died%20in%20Alabama.
Alaska	1913	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Alaska_Death_Records
Arizona	1909	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Arizona_Death_Records
Arkansas	1914	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Arkansas_Death_Records
California	1905	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_California_Death_Records
Colorado	1908	https://archives.colorado.gov/collections/genealogy-vital-records/death-records
Connecticut	1897	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Connecticut_Death_Records
Delaware	1913	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Delaware_Death_Records
District of Columbia	1874	https://dchealth.dc.gov/service/death-certificates
Florida	1899	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Florida_Death_Records
Georgia	1919	https://www.georgiaarchives.org/research/death_records#:~:text=Statewide%20registration%20of%20births%20and,in%20the%20Georgia%20Death%20Certificates.
Hawaii	1896	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Hawaii_Death_Records
Idaho	1911	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Idaho_Death_Records
Illinois	1916	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Illinois_Death_Records
Indiana	1900	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Indiana_Death_Records
Iowa	1899	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Iowa_Death_Records
Kansas	1911	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Kansas_Death_Records
Kentucky	1911	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Kentucky_Death_Records
Louisiana	1914	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Louisiana_Death_Records
Maine	1892	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Maine_Death_Records
Maryland	1898	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Maryland_Death_Records
Massachusetts	1841	https://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcvitalrecords/vitalrecordsidx.htm#:~:text=Statewide%20collection%20of%20Massachusetts%20vital,municipality%20where%20the%20event%20occurred.
Michigan	1897	https://www.michigan.gov/libraryofmichigan/0,9327,7-381-88854_89996_90000-467352--,00.html
Minnesota	1908	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Minnesota_Death_Records

Generally you can obtain a Death Certificate from the state, or from the county, city, or town clerk or recorder.

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Mississippi	1912	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Mississippi_Death_Records
Missouri	1910	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Missouri_Death_Records
Montana	1907	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Montana_Death_Records
Nebraska	1904	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Nebraska_Death_Records
Nevada	1911	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Nevada_Death_Records
New Hampshire	1905	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_New_Hampshire_Death_Records
New Jersey	1848	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_New_Jersey_Death_Records
New Mexico	1920	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_New_Mexico_Death_Records
New York	1880	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_New_York_Death_Records
North Carolina	1913	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_North_Carolina_Death_Records
North Dakota	1899	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_North_Dakota_Death_Records
Ohio	1908	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Ohio_Death_Records
Oklahoma	1908	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Oklahoma_Death_Records
Oregon	1903	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Oregon_Death_Records
Pennsylvania	1906	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Pennsylvania_Death_Records
Rhode Island	1853	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Rhode_Island_Death_Records
South Carolina	1915	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_South_Carolina_Death_Records
South Dakota	1905	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_South_Dakota_Death_Records
Tennessee	1914	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Tennessee_Death_Records
Texas	1908	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Texas_Death_Records
Utah	1904	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Utah_Death_Records
Vermont	1857	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Vermont_Death_Records
Virginia	1912	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Virginia_Death_Records
Washington	1907	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Washington_Death_Records
West Virginia	1917	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_West_Virginia_Death_Records
Wisconsin	1907	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Wisconsin_Death_Records
Wyoming	1909	https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/How_to_Find_Wyoming_Death_Records

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