



Records Preservation & Access Committee

Federation of Genealogical Societies, National Genealogical Society,
International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies

The Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC) is sponsored by the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS), and the National Genealogical Society (NGS) and supported by the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), the Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG), the American Society of Genealogists (ASG), and the International Commission for the Accreditation of Professional Genealogists (ICAPGen). Members of RPAC meet monthly to advise the genealogical community on ensuring proper access to vital records and on supporting strong records preservation policies and practices.

More information can be found at <http://www.fgs.org/rpac>.

Stay Informed! Sign-up for the *Records Advocate* Blog!

Help RPAC be proactive on records access issues, subscribe to the *Records Advocate* at <http://www.RecordsAdvocate.org>. The *Records Advocate* will keep you advised of state, federal, and international access issues throughout the year which may impact your family history research.

Make Sure the 2011 Model State Vital Statistics Act is Not Passed in Your State!

Many state legislatures are in session during the first few months of the year. Stay alert to possible restrictive legislation in your state. The 2011 Model State Vital Statistics Act if passed in your state will increase the embargo period for access to Vital Records, as well as indexes, to 125 years for birth records, 75 years for death records, and 100 years for marriage and divorce records. RPAC is particularly concerned in states which passed the last vital statistics model act in 1992. If you learn of any legislation which will affect access to public records, contact RPAC at access@fgs.org. You can read the proposed 2011 Model Act at <http://www.fgs.org/rpac/publications/>.

You Can Help Keep Records Accessible! Sign the Genealogists' Declaration of Rights!

RPAC thanks everyone who signed the Declaration and all the genealogists and blogs that helped spread the word. We are only 168 signatures from reaching our goal of 10,000! If you have not signed, there is still time to sign at <http://bit.ly/gen-declaration>.

Watch the *Records Advocate* for Updates About Access to the Social Security Death Index (SSDI)

Section 203 of the Bipartisan Budget Act passed in late 2013, restricted access to the Death Master File, also known as the SSDI, for three years after an individual's death. The Commerce Department is behind schedule in releasing the Final Rules about the certification process for access to the Death Master File during the embargo period. Meanwhile the IRS has been improving the filters to reduce identity theft from tax fraud and RPAC has been building support to an amendment which would provide access to the same information without the Social Security Number.

Subscribe at RecordsAdvocate.org for news about state and federal legislation impacting records!