



## Do You Know?

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I recently received an e-mail asking me what needs to be done when a ham becomes a Silent Key.

Do you know that the FCC rules (Part 97) do not require any action to be taken when a licensee becomes deceased?

However, the FCC rules provide some general guidance in the event of the death of a licensee in §97.31 which was added in late 2010. Prior to then there was no guidance.

### **§97.31 Cancellation on account of the licensee's death.**

*(a) A person may request cancellation of an operator/primary station license grant on account of the licensee's death by submitting a signed request that includes a death certificate, obituary, or Social Security Death Index data that shows the person named in the operator/primary station license grant has died. Such a request may be submitted as a pleading associated with the deceased licensee's license. See §1.45 of this chapter. In addition, the Commission may cancel an operator/primary station license grant if it becomes aware of the grantee's death through other means. No action will be taken during the last thirty days of the post-expiration grace period (see §97.21(b)) on a request to cancel a license due to the licensee's death.*

*(b) A license that is canceled due to the licensee's death is canceled as of the date of the licensee's death.*

Here is some more specific guidance provided by the ARRL:

Once things have settled down and when the family is ready to deal with this, it's pretty simple.

1. The FCC requires a signed request indicating that the current licensee is now deceased (include the deceased licensee's name and call sign in the letter).

**Note:** While not necessary, I might consider including a copy of the license if she had a copy.

2. Also, the FCC requires that some type of evidence of death accompany the request. Either of the following supporting information is acceptable as proof:

- Copy of a dated obituary (must include date of death)
- Copy of the death certificate

3. Requests for cancellation of a deceased Amateur's license along with supporting information can be submitted

- through the FCC website: <https://esupport.fcc.gov/request.htm>, or
- by mailing the request to:

FCC  
Attn: Amateur Manager  
1280 Fairfield Rd  
Gettysburg, PA 17325-7237

4. You can also fax the request to [717-338-2690](tel:717-338-2690). On the cover sheet address the fax to: Attn: Amateur Manager.

Allow the FCC one to two weeks to cancel the license. You can verify the FCC has canceled the license by looking up the [FCC license call sign data](#). If the license has been canceled, FCC will show the license STATUS as "**CANCELED**".

**Now you know.**