

The following is the process for finding information about relatives who were patients at this hospital.

The state jealously guards a patient's right to privacy. By law, mental health records are sealed but can be accessed by relatives - primarily next of kin, who have a compelling reason.

Statutes that regulate the release of information were changed in 1992. You now need a court order to obtain information from the record of a deceased patient. To obtain a court order you may contact your local probate court. If you live in Buchanan County, Missouri, please contact, in writing:

Judge Dan Kellogg
Buchanan County Courthouse
411 Jules
St. Joseph, MO 64501

Provide as much information as you can, i.e., date of birth, date of death, social security number if you know it, and approximate length of stay at the hospital.

Bring, or send, the court order to the State Hospital Records Department, located across the street from the St. Joseph Museums/Glore Psychiatric Museum. Send all correspondence to:

Health Information Management Department
NMPRC
3505 Frederick Avenue
St. Joseph, MO 64506
816-387-2540

There is a \$23.94 retrieval fee and a \$.55 per page copying fee*. Do not send money. An invoice will be enclosed with the information when it is sent to you.

However, it is possible that a patient's death certificate may be found online at Missouri Digital Heritage. The address to search for such information is

<http://www.sos.mo.gov/archives/resources/deathcertificates/>

Death certificates are only available online for those individuals who passed away in Missouri between 1910 and 1967.

Death certificates for other records can be obtained through the Missouri Department of Vital Records at <http://www.dhss.mo.gov/BirthAndDeathRecords/applications.html>

If you need more information, please contact the St. Joseph Museums/Glore Psychiatric Museum at sjm@stjosephmuseum.org or 816-232-8471

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*Costs subject to change