

## **IDPH Awards Contract for an Electronic Vital Records System**

The Iowa Department of Public Health is pleased to announce that the Department signed a contract March 29, 2013, with Netsmart Technologies, Inc. located in Great River, New York, to re-engineer the Electronic Vital Records System in the Bureau of Health Statistics and Vital Records. This effort will modernize the Department's registration system for births, deaths, fetal deaths, marriages, and dissolutions of marriage, providing not only more efficiencies in the day-to-day processing of these records but also making this information more accessible to the citizens of Iowa.

Planning efforts will begin immediately between Netsmart and a team of stakeholders for the development of the electronic death registration system (EDRS). Initial implementation of the EDRS is anticipated to occur in approximately 12 months. Funeral directors and medical professionals have patiently awaited this project, which will significantly improve efficiency in completing and registering death records and enable access to certified death certificates in a more timely manner.

Completion of the full project is targeted for 2018, assuming availability of funding.