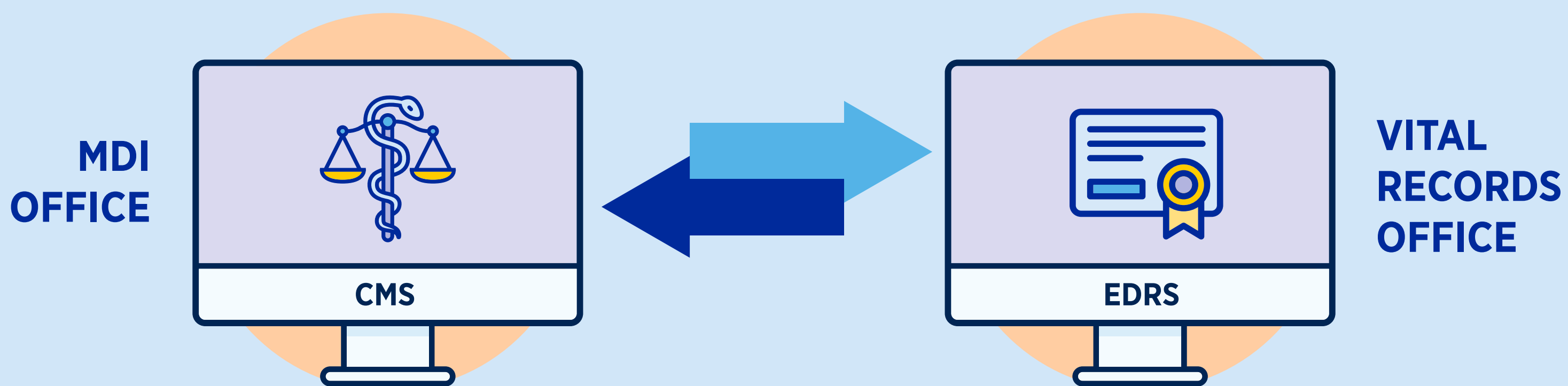# ALASKA STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER'S OFFICE

Background: The Alaska State Medical Examiner's Office (SMEO) was established in 1996 by the Alaska Legislature. SMEO conducts medicolegal death investigations using a centralized statewide medical examiner's model. The entire population of Alaska, consisting of 663,300 square miles, 20 boroughs and a population of 734,323 people is served by one central office covering the entire state. All cases that require an examination by a forensic pathologist are flown to SMEO in Anchorage, Alaska. In 2022, there were 5,700 deaths and the SMEO certified 1,308 or 23% of deaths.

The MDI office, using their CMS, is working to query and update the Vital Records Office EDRS

Dataflow	MDI Case Management System (CMS) and the Electronic Death Registration System (EDRS)
Project Description	The Alaska State Medical Examiner's Office (SMEO) and their Health Analytics and Vital Records System (HAVRS) section are working on data exchange between SMEO's electronic case management system (VertiQ) and the electronic death registration system (Netsmart) used by HAVRS. Making the two systems interoperable and bi-directional will decrease both agencies' double data entry.
MDI Connect Office	Alaska State Medical Examiner's Office
CMS Vendor	VertiQ
Data Sharing Partner	Health Analytics and Vital Records System (HAVRS)
Data Sharing Vendor	Netsmart
Benefits	Improved and expedited processes for filing death certificates and providing information to families Reduced staff time needed for data entry and improved data quality
Challenges	Time required to develop and issue subcontracts Incorporating additional requirements from state information technology department

Acronyms: • MDI – Medicolegal Death Investigation • **CMS** – Case Management System • **EDRS** – Electronic Death Registration System • **HL7** – Health Level 7 • **FHIR** – Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources

About MDI Connect: MDI Connect is a joint initiative of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Collaborating Office for Medical Examiners and Coroners (COMEC) and the CDC Foundation. Through MDI Connect, medical examiner and coroner offices work together to enhance data sharing between their offices and public health, toxicology or other agencies. MDI Connect is a collaborative learning environment where MDI offices, data sharing partners, vendors and Fast Healthcare Interoperability (FHIR®) subject matter experts can work together to modernize MDI data practices and work towards interoperability. The goal of this collaborative is to create reusable tools and approaches that will reduce data entry efforts, reduce efforts exchanging data with others and increase access to information for office functioning and research. **For more information visit, MDIconnecthub.org**

MDI CONNECT