



# Revised United States Standard Certificate of Death

[Approved by U. S. Census and American Public Health  
Association]

**Statement of occupation.**—Precise statement of occupation is very important, so that the relative healthfulness of various pursuits can be known. The question applies to each and every person, irrespective of age. For many occupations a single word or term on the first line will be sufficient, e. g., *Farmer* or *Planter*, *Physician*, *Composer*, *Architect*, *Locomotive engineer*, *Civil engineer*, *Stationary fireman*, etc. But in many cases, especially in industrial employments, it is necessary to know (a) the kind of work and also (b) the nature of the business or industry, and therefore an additional line is provided for the latter statement; it should be used only when needed. As examples: (a) *Spinner*, (b) *Cotton mill*; (a) *Salesman*, (b) *Grocery*; (a) *Foreman*, (b) *Automobile factory*. The material worked on may form part of the second statement. Never return "Laborer," "Foreman," "Manager," "Dealer," etc., without more precise specification, as *Day laborer*, *Farm laborer*, *Laborer—Coal mine*, etc. Women at home, who are engaged in the duties of the household only (not paid *Housekeepers* who receive a definite salary), may be entered as *Housewife*, *Housework*, or *At home*, and children, not gainfully employed, as *At school* or *At home*. Care should be taken to report specifically the occupations of persons engaged in domestic service for wages, as *Servant*, *Cook*, *Housemaid*, etc. If the occupation has been changed or given up on account of the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, state occupation at beginning of illness. If retired from business, that fact may be indicated thus: *Farmer (retired, 6 yrs.)*. For persons who have no occupation whatever, write *None*.

**Statement of cause of death.**—Name, first, the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH (the primary affection with respect to time and causation), using always the same accepted term for the same disease. Examples: *Cerebrospinal fever* (the only definite synonym is "Epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis"); *Diphtheria* (avoid use of "Croup"); *Typhoid fever* (never report "Typhoid pneumonia"); *Lobar pneumonia*; *Bronchopneumonia* ("Pneumonia," unqualified, is indefinite); *Tuberculosis of lungs, meninges, peritoneum*, etc., *Carcinoma*, *Sar-*

*coma*, etc., of \_\_\_\_\_ (name origin; "Cancer" is less definite; avoid use of "Tumor" for malignant neoplasms); *Measles*; *Whooping cough*; *Chloral heart disease*; *Chronic interstitial nephritis* contributory (secondary or intercurrent) affec not be stated unless important. Example: *Meas case causing death*, 29 ds.; *Bronchopneumondary*, 10 ds. Never report mere symptominal conditions, such as "Asthenia," " (merely symptomatic), "Atrophy," "Collapse," "Convulsions," "Debility" ("Congenital," "Sex," "Dropsy," "Exhaustion," "Heart failure," "rhage," "Inanition," "Marasmus," "Old age," "Uraemia," "Weakness," etc., when a definit can be ascertained as the cause. Always q diseases resulting from childbirth or miscal "PUERPERAL septichaemia," "PUERPERAL perito State cause for which surgi al operation wa taken. For VIOLENT DEATHS state MEANS OF IN qualify as ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, OF HOMICID, probably such, if impossible to determine. Examples: *Accidental drowning*; *Struck by train—accident*; *Revolver wound of head—h Poisoned by carbolic acid—probably suicide*. The nature of the injury, as fracture of skull, and consequences (e. g., *sepsis*, *tetanus*) may be stated under the head of "Contributory." (Recommendations on statement of cause of death approved by Committee on Nomenclature of the American Medical Association.)

