

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*, *Compositor*, *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, and therefore an additional line is provided for statement; it should be used only when needed. Examples: (a) *Spinner*, (b) *Cotton mill*; (a) *Salesman*, (b) *Store*; (a) *Foreman*, (b) *Automobile factory*. The occupation worked on may form part of the second statement. Never return "Laborer," "Foreman," "Manager," etc., without more precise specification, as *Day Farm laborer*, *Laborer—Coal mine*, etc. Women, who are engaged in the duties of the household (not paid *Housekeepers* who receive a definite salary), should 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

use of "Tumor" for malignant neoplasms); *Measles*; *Whooping cough*; *Chronic valvular heart disease*; *Chronic interstitial nephritis*, etc. The contributory (secondary or intercurrent) affection need not be stated unless important. Example: *Measles* (disease causing death), 29 ds.; *Bronchopneumonia* (secondary), 10 ds. Never report mere symptoms or terminal conditions, such as "Asthenia," "Anaemia" (merely symptomatic), "Atrophy," "Collapse," "Coma," "Convulsions," "Debility" ("Congenital," "Senile," etc.), "Dropsy," "Exhaustion," "Heart failure," "Haemorrhage," "Inanition," "Marasmus," "Old age," "Shock," "Uraemia," "Weakness," etc., when a definite disease can be ascertained as the cause. Do not qualify all diseases resulting from child birth or carriage, as "PUERPERAL septicaemia," "Epidemic peritonitis," etc. State cause for which surgical operation was undertaken. For VIOLENT DEATHS state INJURY and qualify as ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or as *probably* such, if impossible to state definitely. Examples: *Accidental drowning*; *railway train—accident*; *Revolver wound of head—Poisoned by carbolic acid—probably suicide*. The cause of the injury, as fracture of skull, and consequent *sepsis, tetanus* may be stated under the head "Contributory." (Recommendations on statement of cause of death approved by Committee on Nomenclature of the American Medical Association.)