

**MISSOURI STATE BOARD OF HEALTH  
BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS  
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

PLACE OF DEATH  
County Linn  
Township Marion  
or  
Village \_\_\_\_\_  
or  
City \_\_\_\_\_ (NO. \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Ward \_\_\_\_\_)

Registration District No. 486 File No. 26905-a  
Primary Registration District No. 57649 Registered No. 51

[If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number]

FULL NAME Retha May Birchfield

**PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS**

SEX Girl COLOR OR RACE White SINGLE child  
MARRIED  
WIDOWED  
OR DIVORCED  
(Write the word)  
DATE OF BIRTH Nov. 8, 1917  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

AGE 8 2 ds. IF LESS than  
1 day, \_\_\_\_ hrs.  
or \_\_\_\_ min.?

OCCUPATION  
(a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHPLACE  
(City or town, State or foreign country) Linn

PARENTS  
NAME OF FATHER Tom Birchfield  
BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER Linn  
(City or town, State or foreign country)  
MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER Eva Kennedy  
BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER Linn  
(City or town, State or foreign country)

THE ABOVE IS TRUE TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE

(Informant) Tom Birchfield  
(ADDRESS) Whiteside Mo.

Filed Nov 13, 1918 C E P Small  
REGISTRAR

**MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**

DATE OF DEATH Aug 10, 1918  
(Month) (Day) (Year)

I HEREBY CERTIFY, that I attended deceased from July 29, 1918, to Aug 10, 1918, that I last saw her alive on Aug 8, 1918, and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at 12 P.M.  
The CAUSE OF DEATH\* was as follows:

Acute Meningitis 'Sporadic'

Contributory I believe a button in nose  
(SECONDARY) (Duration) \_\_\_\_ yrs. \_\_\_\_ mos. \_\_\_\_ ds.

(Signed) Edith Robinson M. D.  
Aug 10, 1918 (Address) Colia Mo.

\*State the Disease Causing Death, or, in deaths from Violent Causes, state (1) Means of Injury; and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal, or Homicidal.

LENGTH OF RESIDENCE (For Hospitals, Institutions, Transients, or Recent Residents)

At place of death \_\_\_\_ yrs. \_\_\_\_ mos. \_\_\_\_ ds. In the State \_\_\_\_ yrs. \_\_\_\_ mos. \_\_\_\_ ds.

Where was disease contracted if not at place of death?

Former or usual residence \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL Mill Creek Cemetery DATE OF BURIAL Aug 11, 1918  
UNDERTAKER Loock & Buchanan ADDRESS Colia Mo.

N. B.—Every item of information should be carefully supplied. AGE should be stated EXACTLY. PHYSICIANS should state CAUSE OF DEATH in plain terms, so that it may be properly classified. Exact statement of OCCUPATION is very important.

# 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 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*, *Sarcoma*, etc. of ..... (name origin; "Cancer" is less definite; avoid

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. Always qualify all diseases resulting from childbirth or miscarriage, as "PUERPERAL septicaemia," "PUERPERAL peritonitis," etc. State cause for which surgical operation was undertaken. For VIOLENT DEATHS state MEANS OF INJURY and qualify as ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL, or as *probably* such, if impossible to determine definitely. Examples: *Accidental drowning*; *Struck by railway train—accident*; *Revolver wound of head—homicide*; *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.)

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