

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 neoplasma); *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," "Anemia" (merely symptomatic), "Atrophy," "Collapse," "Coma," "Convulsions," "Debility" ("Congenital," "Senile," etc.), "Dropsy," "Exhaustion," "Heart failure," "Hemorrhage," "Inanition," "Marasmus," "Old age," "Shock," "Uremia," "Weakness," etc., when a definite disease can be ascertained as the cause. Always qualify all diseases resulting from child-birth or miscarriage, as "PUERPERAL septicemia," "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.)

NOTE.—Individual offices may add to above list of undesirable terms and refuse to accept certificates containing them. Thus the form in use in New York City states: "Certificates will be returned for additional information which give any of the following diseases, without explanation, as the sole cause of death: Abortion, cellulitis, childbirth, convulsions, hemorrhage, gangrene, gastritis, erysipelas, meningitis, miscarriage, necrosis, peritonitis, phlebitis, pyemia, septicemia, tetanus." But general adoption of the minimum list suggested will work vast improvement, and its scope can be extended at a later date.

ADDITIONAL SPACE FOR FURTHER STATEMENTS
BY PHYSICIAN.

STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

1 PLACE OF DEATH
 County Polk State MISSOURI. 705 Registered No. _____
 Township Benton or Village 5934 or _____
 City _____ No. _____ St. _____ Ward _____
(If death occurred in a hospital or institution, give its NAME instead of street and number)

2 FULL NAME Joseph Hardin Gordon
 (a) Residence No. _____
(Usual place of abode)
 Length of residence in city or town where death occurred _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds. How long in U. S., if of foreign birth? _____ yrs. _____ mos. _____ ds.
 St. _____ Ward _____
(If nonresident give city or town and State)

PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS

3 SEX M 4 COLOR OR RACE W 5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED, OR DIVORCED (write the word) M

6 DATE OF BIRTH (month, day, and year) Nov 16 1840

7 AGE Years 83 Months _____ Days 7
IF LESS than 1 day, hrs. or min.

8 OCCUPATION OF DECEASED
 (a) Trade, profession, or particular kind of work _____
 (b) General nature of industry, business, or establishment in which employed (or employer) _____
 (c) Name of employer _____

9 BIRTHPLACE (city or town) _____
(State or country)

10 NAME OF FATHER _____

11 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (city or town) _____
(State or country)

12 MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER _____

13 BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (city or town) _____
(State or country)

MEDICAL CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

16 DATE OF DEATH (month, day, and year) Mar 23 1923

17 I HEREBY CERTIFY, That I attended deceased from _____, 19____, to _____, 19____, that I last saw h_____ alive on _____, 19____, and that death occurred, on the date stated above, at _____ m. The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows:

14 Informant _____
(Address)

15 Filed Jul 1, 1923 AW Gordon
REGISTRAR

18 Where was disease contracted _____
 If not at place of death? _____

Did an operation precede death? _____ Date of _____

Was there an autopsy? _____

What test confirmed diagnosis? _____

(Signed) _____, M. D.
 _____, 19____ (Address)

* State the DISEASE CAUSING DEATH, or in deaths from VIOLENT CAUSES, state (1) MEANS AND NATURE OF INJURY, and (2) whether ACCIDENTAL, SUICIDAL, or HOMICIDAL. (See reverse side for additional space.)

19 PLACE OF BURIAL, CREMATION, OR REMOVAL _____ DATE OF BURIAL _____ 19____

20 UNDERTAKER _____ ADDRESS _____

SUPPLEMENT

TUTION is very important. See instructions on back of certificate.

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