

UNITED STATES STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

Statement of occupation.—Precise statement of occupation is very important, so that the relative healthfulness of various pursuits can be known. Make some entry in this section for every person aged 10 years or over. If the occupation had been given up or changed on account of the disease causing death, report the occupation prior to illness. If the deceased had retired from business, report the occupation prior to retirement. Children not gainfully employed may be returned as *at school* or *at home*. For a woman whose only occupation was that of home housework, write *housework* in answer to Question 8 and *own home* in answer to Question 9. For a person engaged in domestic service for wages, however, designate the occupation by the appropriate terms, as *housekeeper—private family*, *cook—hotel*, etc. For a person who had no occupation whatever write *none*.

To be complete, an occupation return must state:

- 8.—The trade, profession, or particular kind of work done.
- 9.—The industry or business in which the work was done.
- 10.—The month and year the deceased last worked at the occupation.
- 11.—The number of years the deceased followed the occupation.

In stating the occupation, avoid the use of such indefinite terms as "employee," "worker," "operative," etc. Find out the particular kind of work done and return that, as *spinner*, *weaver*, etc.

In stating the industry or business, avoid the use of such general terms as "store," "factory," "mill," etc. State the particular kind of store, factory, mill, etc., as *grocery store*, *soap factory*, *cotton mill*, etc.

Distinguish carefully the different kinds of engineers by stating the full descriptive titles, as *civil engineer*, *mechanical engineer*, *mining engineer*, *stationary engineer*, etc. Avoid the term "laborer" when a more precise statement of the occupation can be secured. Do not use the word "mechanic," but give the exact occupation, as *carpenter*, *painter*, *machinist*, etc. Distinguish carefully between *retail merchants* and *wholesale merchants*. A person who sells goods should be called a *salesman* and not a *clerk*.

Statement of cause of death.—Cause of death means the disease, injury, or complication which causes death, *not* the mode of dying, e. g., heart failure, asphyxia, asthenia, etc. As principal cause name the disease or injury causing death. As related causes, name earlier morbid conditions, if any, related to the principal cause and any important complication of the principal cause. Under contributory causes of importance not related to principal cause, name other important diseases or injuries. Examples:

Example I

The principal cause of death and related causes of importance in order of onset were as follows:	Date of onset
<i>Arteriosclerosis</i>	<i>1915</i>
<i>Chronic interstitial nephritis</i>	<i>1921</i>
<i>Cerebral hemorrhage</i>	<i>July 5, 1927</i>
Contributory causes of importance not related to principal cause:	
<i>Fracture of arm</i>	
<i>Automobile accident</i>	<i>May 3, 1927</i>

Example II

The principal cause of death and related causes of importance in order of onset were as follows:	Date of onset
<i>Attack of epilepsy</i>	<i>1 week ago</i>
<i>Run over by street car</i>	<i>1 week ago</i>
<i>Peritonitis</i>	<i>3 days ago</i>
Contributory causes of importance not related to principal cause:	
<i>Influenza</i>	<i>6 weeks ago</i>

In a group of causes containing the principal cause and related causes, the causes should be given in the order of onset, so that in a group of three causes the principal cause may appear in either first, second, or third position. The principal cause in each of the above examples happens to be the second cause given.