

Form Information:

Death and stillbirth records often included information related to the form that would have assisted those completing the form to fill it out correctly. Please view the samples below to see what the form information looked like over the range of years for which the Provincial Archives of Alberta can provide access.





### NOTICE TO PHYSICIANS

The physician's responsibility is usually confined to the correct statement of the cause of death, but he may in some instances note errors in the personal and statistical particulars concerning the deceased, the correction of which will be of service to statistical accuracy as well as to more truthful legal records.

**CAUSE OF DEATH**—The following are undesirable terms and must not be used unless qualified by the disease causing these conditions. A record containing any of these as the sole cause of death without explanation will be returned for additional information.

Abscess	Convulsions	Heart Failure	Peritonitis
Accident	Childbirth	Hemorrhage	Pneumonia
Anaemia	Cancer	Hysterectomy	Phlebitis
Asthenia	Debility	Inanition	Pyemia
Atrophy	Dropsy	Marasmus	Septicemia
Abortion	Exhaustion	Meningitis	Shock
Collapse	Erysipelas	Miscarriage	Tetanus
Coma	Gangrene	Necrosis	Tuberculosis
Cellulitis	Gastritis	Old Age	Uremia

For **VIOLENT DEATHS** state the means of injury and qualify as Accidental, Suicidal or Homicidal.

A **STILLBIRTH** must be registered both as a birth and a death.

Provincial Archives of Alberta Note: Death records between 1922 to 1934 may contain a registration of death and a medical certificate of death. On the reverse of the medical certificate of death, there is a 'notice to physicians' which would have assisted the physician in filling out the form correctly.

192579





NATIONAL REGISTRATION  
CERTIFICATE RECEIVED

CERTIFICATE ISSUED  
Date... 5/4/43

### INSTRUCTIONS

- (1) The present form of certificate has been drawn up after consultation between the Dominion Bureau of Statistics and representatives of leading bodies in the medical profession. It has been approved by the Vital Statistics Section of the Canadian Public Health Association and also by the Deputy Registrar of births, deaths and marriages of each province.
- (2) **Nationality.**—Nationality is defined as the country to which the person owes allegiance. The term "Canadian" should be used as descriptive of every person who has rights of citizenship in Canada. Every person born in Canada should be entered as "Canadian" unless he or she has subsequently become a citizen of another country.
- (3) **Racial Origin.**—Racial Origin will be described by stating to what people or race the deceased person belonged, whether English, Irish, Scottish, French, German, etc. (The term "American" or "Canadian" should not be used, as they express citizenship but not a race or people.)
- (4) **Occupation.**—Precise statement of occupation is very important, so that the relative healthfulness of various pursuits may be known. An entry should be made in this section for every person aged 10 years or over. If the deceased has retired from business, the occupation prior to retirement should be reported. Children not gainfully employed may be returned as at school or at home. For a woman whose only occupation was that of home housework, the entry should be housewife. For a person engaged in domestic service for wages, however, designate the occupation by the appropriate terms, as servant—private family, cook—hotel, etc. For a person who had no occupation the entry should be none.

In stating the occupation, avoid the use of such indefinite terms as "employee," "worker," "operative," etc. The particular kind of work done should be stated clearly as spinner, weaver, etc.

In stating the industry or business the use of such general terms as "store," "factory," "mill," etc., should be avoided. The particular kind of store, factory, mill, etc., should be stated as grocery store, soap factory, cotton mill, etc.

The different kinds of engineers should be carefully distinguished by giving the full descriptive titles, as civil engineer, mechanical engineer, mining engineer, stationary engineer, etc. The term "labourer" should be avoided when a more precise statement of the occupation can be secured. The word "mechanic" should not be used but the exact occupation, as carpenter, painter, machinist, etc. A careful distinction should be made between retail merchants and wholesale merchants. The term "clerk" without qualification should always be avoided. A person who sells goods should be called a salesman. A stenographer, typist, accountant, bookkeeper, cashier, etc., should be reported as such, never as a "clerk."



Provincial Archives of Alberta Note: Death records between 1935 to 1947 may contain a registration of death and medical certificate of death. On the reverse of the registration and medical certificate of death, there is a set of 'instructions' which would have assisted in the filling out of the forms correctly.

Registrar's Record No. \_\_\_\_\_

Given under my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 19\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of the original as the same appears in the records of the Registrar.

Person in charge of Funeral \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address of Undertaker or Person in charge of Funeral \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Physician \_\_\_\_\_

Cause of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Date deceased at this occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Kind of industry \_\_\_\_\_

Trade, profession, special, business, or occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Age in \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Place of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Hospital \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Decedent in full \_\_\_\_\_

(Print name and sex)

ALBERTA 34 LICENSED EMBALMER

REGISTERED UNDER THE EMBALMERS ACT (S.A.S. 1911, CAP. 10)

REGISTERED UNDER THE EMBALMERS ACT (S.A.S. 1911, CAP. 10)

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA  
DEPT. OF HEALTH  
JUN 20 '24  
PUBLIC STAMPS

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Collapse	Erysipelas	Miscarriage	Tetanus
Coma	Gangrene	Necrosis	Tuberculosis
Cellulitis	Gastritis	Old Age	Uremia

For **VIOLENT DEATHS** state the means of injury and qualify as Accidental, Suicidal or Homicidal.

A **STILLBIRTH** must be registered both as a birth and a death.

Provincial Archives of Alberta Note: Stillbirth Death records between 1923 to 1938 may contain a registration of stillbirth, registration of death, and a medical certificate of death. On the reverse of the medical notice to physicians there is a note that would have assisted in filling out the form correctly.

SB 711



# INSTRUCTIONS

**Physician's Statement of Cause of Death.**—The morbid conditions relating to death are divided on the certificate into two groups. In Group I are those related to the "Immediate Cause" of death, and in Group II, those not causally related thereto. In most cases a statement of cause under Group I will suffice. Detailed certification is not desired, the entry of a single cause being preferable in all cases where this can be regarded as adequate (see Example I), but where the physician finds it necessary to record more than one cause it is important that these be stated in the position provided on the form as indicative of their mutual relationship. This information is sought so that the selection of the cause for tabulation may be made in the light of the certifier's viewpoint:—

- (a) Name first the "Immediate Cause" of death, i.e. the disease, injury or complication which caused death (not mode of dying or terminal condition).
- (b) Then give other morbid conditions (if any) of which it was the consequence, in order of causal relationship (due to) stating the most recent one first and then others in order.
- (c) Entries under Group II should be reserved for "other important contributory morbid conditions" in those instances particularly in which death was due to a combination of maladies, none of which would have been fatal alone. In such cases the physician's judgment alone can afford guidance to the tabulator.
- (d) Use always accepted terms for morbid conditions and never record mere symptoms.
- (e) **Maternal Deaths.**—Qualify all diseases resulting from childbirth, miscarriage or abortion by the word "Puerperal", e.g., puerperal septicaemia. Distinguish between septicaemia originating in abortion and in childbirth.
- (f) **Cancer.**—In all cases the organ or part first affected should be specified.
- (g) **Violent Deaths.**—Coroners, medical examiners and physicians who certify to deaths from violent causes should always clearly indicate the fundamental distinction of whether the death was due to **accident, suicide, or homicide**, and then state the manner and nature of injury. The circumstances of each accident should be stated as fully as possible, e.g., an **automobile accident** should always be designated as such.

The following examples illustrate the essential principles in the use of the form.

I.	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4	Example 5
Immediate Cause.....	(a) Lobar pneumonia	(a) Pulmonary tuberculosis	(a) Acute peritonitis	(a) Bronchopneumonia	(a) Uraemia
Morbid Conditions, if any, giving rise to immediate cause (stated in order proceeding backwards from immediate cause).	due to	due to	due to	due to	due to
	(b) _____	(b) _____	(b) Acute appendicitis	(b) Operation	(b) Chronic nephritis
	due to	due to	due to	due to	due to
	(c) _____	(c) _____	(c) _____	(c) Strangulated inguinal hernia	(c) _____
II.	II.	II.	II.	II.	II.
Other morbid conditions (if important) contributing to death but not causally related to immediate cause.	_____	_____	_____	Chronic interstitial nephritis	Chronic bronchitis

## STILLBIRTH

"A dead-birth (stillbirth) is the birth of a (viable) foetus, after at least twenty-eight weeks pregnancy, in which pulmonary respiration does not occur; such a foetus may die either: (a) before, (b) during or (c) after birth, but before it has breathed."

The special stillbirth registration form (blue coloured) must be used in registering a stillbirth.



Provincial Archives of Alberta Note: Death records between 1948 to 1959 may contain a registration of death and medical certificate of death. On the reverse of the registration of death and medical certificate page, there is a set of 'instructions' that would have assisted in the filling out of the forms correctly.



## INSTRUCTIONS

**Physician's Statement of Cause of Death** - The morbid conditions relating to death are divided on the certificate into two groups. In Group I are those related to the "Disease or condition directly leading to death" and the "Antecedent causes", and in Group II, other significant conditions contributing to the death but not related to the disease or condition causing it. In most cases a statement of cause under Group I will suffice. Detailed certification is not desired, the entry of a single cause being preferable in all cases where this can be regarded as adequate (see Example 1), but where the physician finds it necessary to record more than one cause it is important that these be stated in the position provided on the form as indicative of their mutual relationship. This information is sought so that the selection of the cause for tabulation may be made in the light of the certifier's viewpoint:-

- (a) Name first the immediate cause of death, i.e., the disease, injury or complication which caused death (not mode of dying or terminal condition).
- (b) Then give other morbid conditions (if any) of which it was the consequence, in order of causal relationship (due to) stating the most recent one first and then others in order.
- (c) Entries under Group II should be reserved for "other significant conditions contributing to the death, but not related to the disease or condition causing it".
- (d) Accepted terms for morbid conditions should always be used - never record mere symptoms.
- (e) **Maternal Deaths** - Qualify all diseases resulting from pregnancy, childbirth, miscarriage or abortion, e.g., "puerperal septicaemia", "eclampsia, arising during pregnancy". Distinguish between septicaemia originating in abortion and in childbirth.
- (f) **Cancer** - In all cases the organ or part **FIRST** affected should be specified.
- (g) **Violent Deaths** - Coroners, medical examiners and physicians who certify to deaths from violent causes should clearly indicate, in all cases, the fundamental distinction of whether the death was due to accident, suicide, or homicide, and then state the manner and nature of injury. The circumstances of each accident should be stated as fully as possible, e.g., a motor vehicle accident should be designated as such, and the type of vehicle involved, e.g., "truck", "private car", etc.

The following examples illustrate the essential principles in the use of the form.

I.	Example 1	Example 2	Example 3	Example 4	Example 5
Disease or condition directly leading to death.	(a) Lobar pneumonia due to (or as a consequence of)	(a) Pulmonary tuberculosis due to (or as a consequence of)	(a) Acute peritonitis due to (or as a consequence of)	(a) Broncho-pneumonia due to (or as a consequence of)	(a) Uraemia due to (or as a consequence of)
Antecedent causes					
Morbid conditions, if any, giving rise to the above cause, stating the underlying condition last.	(b) - due to (or as a consequence of)	(b) - due to (or as a consequence of)	(b) Acute appendicitis due to (or as a consequence of)	(b) Operation due to (or as a consequence of)	(b) Chronic nephritis due to (or as a consequence of)
	(c) -	(c) -	(c) -	(c) Strangulated inguinal hernia	(c) -
II.					
Other significant conditions contributing to the death but not related to the disease or condition causing it.	-	-	-	Chronic interstitial nephritis	Chronic bronchitis

**Note** - The special stillbirth registration form must be used in registering a stillbirth.

### EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS ACT

14. (3) The legally qualified medical practitioner who was last in attendance during the last illness of the deceased, or the coroner who conducts an inquest on the body or an inquiry into the circumstances of the death, shall forthwith after the death, inquest or inquiry, as the case may be, complete and sign a medical certificate in the prescribed form, stating therein the cause of death according to the International List of Causes of Death, as last revised by the International Commission assembled for that purpose, and shall forthwith cause the medical certificate to be delivered to the funeral director.

Provincial Archives of Alberta Note: Death records between 1960 to 1968 may contain a registration of death and medical certificate. On the reverse of the death registration there are instructions called 'notes' and on the reverse of the medical certificate of death, there are 'instructions'. These would have assisted in the filling out of the forms correctly.



1962 L32

## NOTES

1. Citizenship (Nationality) is defined in terms of the country to which the person owes allegiance. The term "Canadian" should be used as descriptive of a person who was born in Canada or who has the rights of Citizenship in Canada, unless he or she has subsequently become the citizen of another country.
2. Racial Origin is defined in terms of the people or race in which the person-traced through the father-belongs, whether English, Irish, Scottish, French, German, Russian, Ukrainian, etc. The terms "Canadian" or "American" should not be used for RACIAL ORIGIN, as they express CITIZENSHIP (NATIONALITY).
3. Under item 12 (1) the trade, profession or kind of work in which the deceased was occupied before death is to be inserted. For example, spinner, doctor, stenographer, sales clerk, office clerk, elevator operator, salesman, labourer, carpenter, et cetera. If a housewife in her own home, state "housewife".
4. Under item 12 (2) the type of industry or business in which the deceased was occupied before death is to be inserted. For example, cotton mill, soap factory, law office, departmental store, insurance, banking, clothing, newspaper, et cetera. If a housewife in her own home, state "At home".

## EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS ACT

14. (2) The personal particulars of the deceased person shall, upon the request of the funeral director, be completed in the prescribed form and delivered to the funeral director,
  - (a) by the nearest relative to the deceased present at the death or in attendance at the last illness of the deceased,
  - (b) if no such relative is available, by any relative of the deceased residing or being within the registration district,
  - (c) if no relative is available, by any adult person present at the death,
  - (d) by any other adult person having knowledge of the facts,
  - (e) by the occupier of the house in which the death occurred, or
  - (f) by the coroner who has been notified of the death and has made an inquiry or held an inquest regarding the death.
14. (8) Upon receipt of the personal particulars respecting the deceased and of the medical certificate, the funeral director shall complete the statement in the prescribed form, and shall forthwith deliver the completed statement to the district registrar of the registration district in which the death occurred, or if the place of death is not known, to the district registrar of the registration district in which the body was found.

Provincial Archives of Alberta Note: Death records between 1960 to 1968 may contain a registration of death and medical certificate. On the reverse of the death registration there are instructions called 'notes' and on the reverse of the medical certificate of death, there are 'instructions'. These would have assisted in the filling out of the forms correctly.



1962-31