

# Death Certificate Help Sheet (Death registered before 1/4/1969)

**Name and Surname:**  
This is the name given to the registrar by the informant. Please note that this will be the name they were using at the time of death, not always the name they were given at birth.

**Heading:**  
This refers to the district, sub-district and county in which the death was registered

**Signature of informant:**  
This may have been marked with an 'X' if the informant was unable to write. Please note that after 1875, the relationship of the informant to the deceased was given.

**Signature of Registrar:**  
Please note that in the case of a death registered over a year late, the signature of the superintendent will also feature.

**Date of registration**

**Cause of Death**

**Occupation:** Please note that this example gives the occupation of the deceased's husband at the time of death.

**Age:** The informant gives the deceased's age at the time of death to the best of their knowledge and belief; therefore it is possible that this may not be accurate.

**Sex: Male or Female**

**Entry number in the death register**

**When and where died**

**Year death was registered**

CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number SPECIMEN

Columns:-	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 22nd day of September 2004

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CAUTION: THERE ARE OFFENCES RELATING TO PALSIFYING OR ALTERING A CERTIFICATE AND USING OR POSSESSING A FALSE CERTIFICATE ©CROWN COPYRIGHT

WARNING: A CERTIFICATE

See note overleaf

JPS

On 1st April 1969, the law relating to death registrations was amended resulting in a change to the format of a death certificate. The information below relates to deaths registered before 1st April 1969.

#### **Column 1: When and where died**

- the date and address of the place of death is recorded here. If the death occurred in a prison or mental institution this will not be indicated and the address of the establishment will be stated

#### **Column 2: Name and surname**

- the name given to the registrar by the informant. This is the name the deceased was using at the time of death, not always the name they were given at birth

#### **Column 3: Sex**

- male or female

#### **Column 4: Age**

- the informant gives the deceased's age at the time of death to the best of their knowledge and it is possible that this may not be accurate
- the age can assist when calculating a year of birth for the deceased

#### **Column 5: Occupation**

- last known occupation
- if the deceased is a married woman or widow, the words 'wife (or widow) of', followed by the name, surname and occupation of her husband or late husband
- if the deceased is a divorced woman, the words 'formerly the wife of', followed by the name, surname and occupation of her ex-husband
- if the deceased is a spinster, the words 'spinster, daughter of', will be followed by the name, surname and occupation of her father
- if the deceased is a child under the age of 15, the words 'son (or daughter) of' is usually followed by the father's name and occupation
- if the death occurred elsewhere than the usual place of residence, the word 'of' is followed by the usual address details of the deceased

#### **Column 6: Cause of death**

- this could include detailed information if an inquest has occurred

#### **Column 7: Signature, description and residence of informant**

- this may have been marked with an 'X' to represent the informant's signature. After 1875, the relationship of the informant to the deceased was given, which gives further clues for family history research

#### **Column 8: When registered**

- the date when the death was registered

#### **Column 9: Signature of registrar**

- if a death was registered over a year late, the signature of the superintendent will also feature with 'on the authority of the Registrar General'