

HELPFUL PUBLICATIONS:

Several publications related to the subject of reporting causes of death are available from the Vital Statistics. If you do not have these booklets and would like to receive them, they can be requested from the address listed below.

1. [*Physicians' Handbook on Medical Certification of Death, and Medical Examiners' and Coroners' Handbook on Death Registration and Fetal Death Reporting.*](#)

These booklets are published by the Public Health Service, U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. A brief outline of the certifier's responsibility is given on page 3, and beginning on page 6 is the section, "**Medical certification of death**," followed by examples of case histories with illustrations as to how they should be recorded on the death certificate.

2. [*How to Complete the Idaho Certificate of Death*](#)

This leaflet contains much of the same information contained in the above-referenced handbooks. Since the leaflet is in narrative form and has no illustrations, the handbook will probably serve your general purpose better; but since the leaflet contains information specific to Idaho, it is included for your information. Pages 1 and 2 contain a sample case history and how it would be reported on the death certificate, as well as an explanation of how the immediate, intervening, and underlying causes of death are used, and how Part II (other significant conditions) should be used. Note that from about the midpoint of page 4 through the top of page 6, detailed instructions for completion of the cause of death section are given.

3. [*Pamphlet of Instructions for Completing Cause of Death Section of the Death Certificate.*](#) This will provide a handy quick reference.

4. [*Coroner Referrals.*](#) This list was originally prepared to help funeral directors determine who the proper certifier on death certificates should be. In the majority of cases, the causes of death listed on this form should be certified by the coroner rather than the physician (according to Section 39-260, **Idaho Code**). If any physicians are asked to certify deaths due to these conditions, they should be aware of this requirement and alert the funeral director to the possible necessity of the coroner's certification.

Thank you for your continuing efforts in supplying complete and accurate information. If you have any questions, please call Kathy Luttrell at her direct line (208) 334-4991.

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