

Changes to Preliminary Report of Death and EDRS

October 1, 2009

Item 9 – Marital Status at Time of Death

The layout of this field has been changed slightly, but all the categories remain the same. The passage of Civil Marriage legislation allows same-sex couples to legally marry in Vermont as of September 1st. Existing civil unions will continue to be recognized in Vermont, but new civil unions will not be granted after August 31, 2009.

Item 10 – Sex of Surviving Spouse / Partner

This item has been added to both the PROD and EDRS as a result of the Civil Marriage legislation. This information is used for statistical purposes and does not appear on the final death certificate.

Item 11 – Father’s or Parent’s Birth Name

Item 12 – Mother’s or Parent’s Birth Name

The titles of these fields have been changed on the PROD and EDRS as well as the actual death certificate to accommodate those instances where the decedent’s parents are of the same sex.

Item 19 – Did the Decedent Receive Hospice Care? (In past 30 days)

Items 20 & 21 a-c – Place of Death

The Hospice question and Place of Death fields have been made available to both funeral directors and physicians on the PROD and in the EDRS. This is to allow for cases, particularly hospital deaths or Medical Examiner cases, in which the physician is more likely to know this information.

On the PROD these fields appear on both sides. The information must be complete on at least one portion of the form. *Note:* the numbering of these fields is the same on both sides of the PROD. This is intentional.

In the EDRS, Place of Death is a required field for both demographic and medical users; however, it can be edited by the last party in the system. So, you should always enter the information as you know it. If you are completing a record started by another user the information they have saved will appear in these fields.

Regardless of the format (EDRS or PROD) if the information provided by the other party is different from what you know, you should contact the other party to determine which information is most accurate before signing the record.

“Intensive Care Unit” has been added as a new Place of Death category for reporting deaths that occurred in a hospital. This is to comply with reporting requirements included in recent State legislation related to palliative care. This category has been added to the new PROD, however, it will not begin to appear in the EDRS until the release scheduled for December 2009. Prior to that time, if you are completing a death in the EDRS that you know occurred in an Intensive Care Unit, choose “Inpatient” instead. When using the paper PROD please select the most accurate category.