CAUSE AND MANNER OF DEATH
THE MANNER OF DEATH

The manner of death can be

- Natural, the most common, caused by interruption and failure of body functions resulting from age or disease
- Accidental
- Suicidal
- Homicidal
- Undetermined

Sometimes the manner of death is difficult to determine
THE MANNER OF DEATH

What is the Manner of Death in these cases?

- A man with a heart condition is attacked and dies from a heart attack during the assault.
- An elderly woman dies after being kept from receiving proper health care by her son.
**Cause and Mechanism of Death**

- The reason someone dies is called the **cause of death**.

- **Proximate cause** of death refers to an underlying cause of death as opposed to the final cause.
  - Example: radiation → cancer = radiation exposure

- **Mechanism of death** describe the specific change in the body that brought about the cessation of life.

- **usually only “Cause” and “Mechanism” are listed on the dead certificate**
Examples:

Manner of death: - homicide
Cause of death: - smothering
Mechanism of death: - asphyxia

Manner of death: - homicide
Cause of death: - stabbing
Mechanism of death: - loss of blood
Man shot during robbery. Man stabilizes. Develops pneumonia. Followed by kidney failure, liver failure, heart failure, death. Had prior lung and heart disease, and probably would have survived if not for these diseases.

**Manner of death:** - homicide

**Cause of death:** - gunshot

**Mechanism of death:** - heart failure
**Review Causes and Mechanisms of Death**

- **Examples of causes of death:**
  - heart attack, gunshot wound, skull fracture, diseases or injuries, stroke, burning, drowning, strangulation, hanging, suffocation, massive trauma, bludgeoning

- **Examples of mechanisms of death:**
  - Exsanguination (bleeding to death)
  - Sepsis (infection in blood stream)
  - Brain trauma (cerebral contusion)
  - Brain bleeding (intra-cerebral bleed)
  - Stop breathing (asphyxia)
  - Pulmonary arrest
  - Cardiac arrest
Whitney Houston death certificate: No cause of death listed

Click here to read the news article.
The manner, cause and mechanism of death of:

- **Jon Bennet Ramsey**
  - Manner – homicide
  - Cause – strangulation
  - Mechanism – asphyxiation - respiratory arrest

- **Whitney Houston**
  - Manner – accidental
  - Cause – drowning
  - Mechanism – Pulmonary arrest
• **Michael Jackson**
  - Manner – homicide
  - Cause – acute propofol intoxication
  - Mechanism – cardiac arrest

• **Hugo Chavez**
  - Manner – natural
  - Cause – heart attack
  - Mechanism – Pulmonary arrest