

# Civil Registration: Death Records

Netherlands “How to” Guide, Intermediate Level: Instruction

April 2016

## GOAL

This guide will teach you how to extract genealogical information from a Dutch civil registration death record by identifying key words and phrases.

## INTRODUCTION

Civil registration, or registering records with the government, was instituted in Belgium around 1795-1796 and in the Netherlands in 1811. The majority of the paragraph form Dutch death records follow a particular format, though they may vary by location or time period. Generally speaking, the later the record the more likely it will be a pre-printed form with blanks filled in. Death records usually contain the name of the deceased, his or her age, birth place, spouse’s information, and parents’ names.

## HOW TO

Before you begin extracting genealogical information from documents written in Dutch, it is important to understand some grammatical concepts.

### Dutch grammar rules

In Dutch, the first verb is always the second part, or concept, of the sentence or clause, while any subsequent verbs are ‘kicked’ to the end of the sentence or clause. For example, the sentence “Today Jan appeared at city hall” would be written, in Dutch word order, “Today appeared Jan at city hall.”

	First concept	Second concept	other information	last concept
<b>English</b>	Today	Jan	appeared	at city hall
<b>Dutch</b>	Today	appeared	Jan	at city hall

If the sentence is, “He had appeared before me, the registrar of Venlo,” the sentence in Dutch would read, “He had before me, the registrar of Venlo, appeared.” The Dutch sentence could also read, “Before me, the registrar of Venlo, had he appeared.”

	First concept	Second concept	other information	last concept
<b>English</b>	He	had appeared		before me, the registrar of Venlo.
<b>Dutch</b>	He	had	before me, the registrar of Venlo	appeared.
<b>Dutch</b>	Before me, the registrar of Venlo	had	he	appeared.

One way to know if the verb has been kicked to the end of the sentence is that the verb will be conjugated in a specific way. In the second example above, the verb “to appear” is often translated as “compareren” in Dutch civil registration records. If the verb is the second concept, the verb would be conjugated as “compareerde”. If the verb is the second verb in the sentence, then it must be the last concept, and it is conjugated as “gecompareerd”. A verb beginning with the letters “ge-” is a good indication that it is at the end of the sentence or clause. The exception to this would be verbs beginning with the letters “ver-” among others.

### Sample Pre-Printed Form Death Record

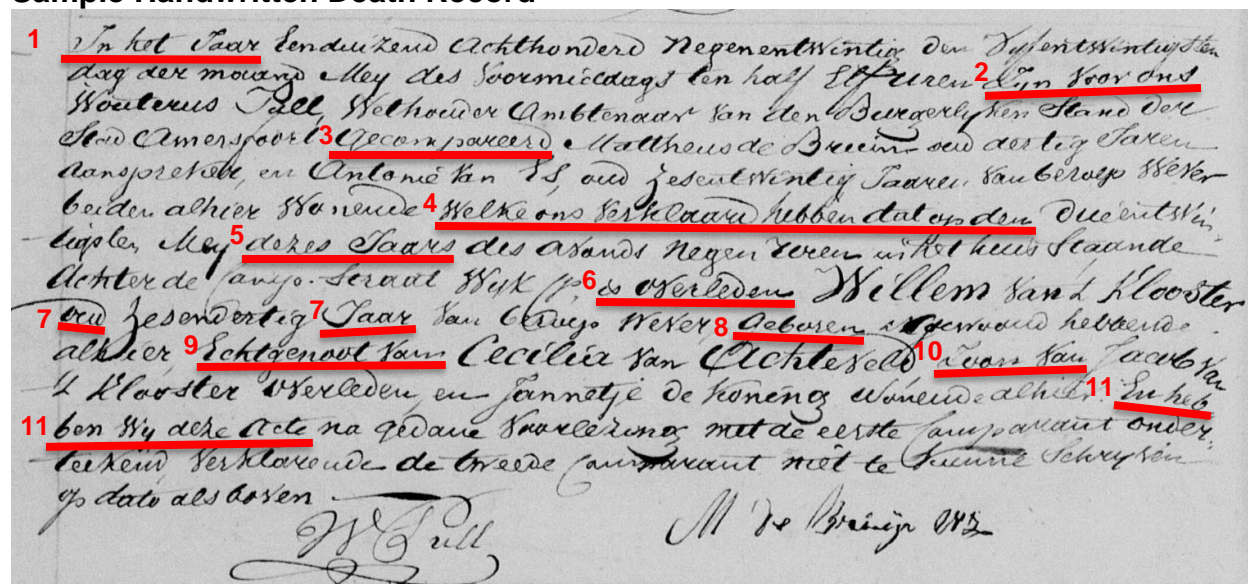
**1** Op heden *Twaalf Junij* Achtthonderd Zeven-en-Veertig,  
 zij voor ons ondergeteekende Ambtenaar van den Burgerlijken Stand der Stad Amsterdam, verschenen :  
**3** *Sarel Pierson* van beroep  
*tode* oud-ambtenaar Jaren, wonende *Noorddijkstraat 16*  
**5** *bekende* van de Overledene, en *Herdijk Willem Nij* van beroep  
*tode* oud-ambtenaar Jaren, wonende *Wlooystraat 19* *bekende*  
**7** van de Overledene, welke hebben verklaard, dat op *Elf Junij* des  
 middags ten *twaalf* ure, in het huis, staande *Herckstraat* Kanton 1,  
**9** N<sup>o</sup>. *1291*, is overleden *Cornelis Johannes Geelmuiden*  
 van beroep *Spinner* wonende *Zachtersiland*  
**11** in den ouderdom van *acht-en-veertig* Jaren geboren te *Vlissingen*  
~~*Geelmuiden*~~  
*Hedemeraas van Catharina van Kerckbergen*  
**13** *van Gerhard Geelmuiden & Sophia Elisabeth Rutgers*  
 En hebben wij hiervan opgemaakt deze Akte, welke na voorlezing door *beaangevens*  
**15** *ous* is onderteekend.  
*G. J. Pierson*  
*H. Nij* *J. Pierson*

Source: <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:S3HT-6PBS-MTQ> : accessed 18 April 2016.

### Pre-Printed Death Record Form Outline in English

<sup>1</sup>On today (full date written out) <sup>2</sup>before us (name and legal description of civil recorder)  
<sup>3</sup>appeared: (informant), occupation <sup>4</sup>(occupation), age, residing (residence), <sup>5</sup>(relationship) to the  
 deceased, and (informant), occupation <sup>6</sup>(occupation), age, residing (residence), (relationship)  
<sup>7</sup>to the deceased, who declared, that on (day and month), at <sup>8</sup>(time), in the house at (residence),  
 district, <sup>9</sup>is deceased (name of deceased), <sup>10</sup>occupation (occupation), residing (residence), <sup>11</sup>in  
 the age of (age), born (birth place), <sup>12</sup>(spouse's name), <sup>13</sup>(parents' names), <sup>14</sup>Of which we have  
 made this act, which after being read was <sup>15</sup>signed by us.

## Sample Handwritten Death Record



Source: <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:9398-R931-W> : accessed 18 April 2016.

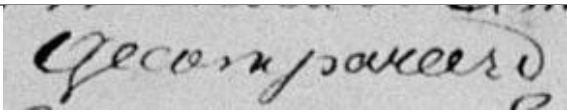
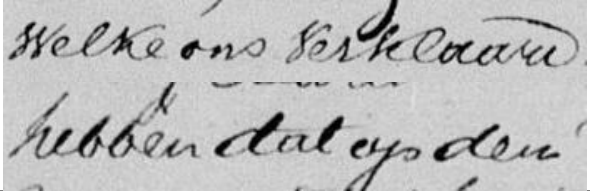
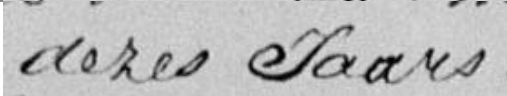
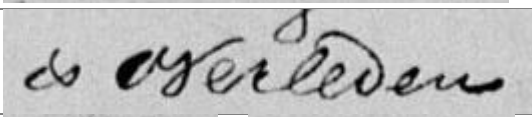

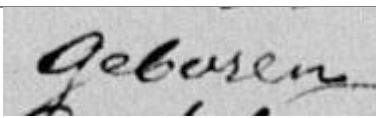
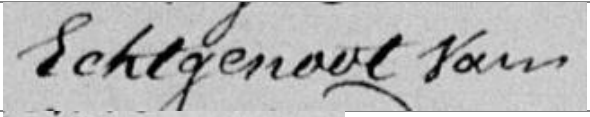
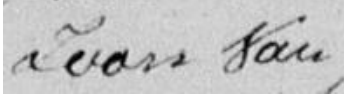
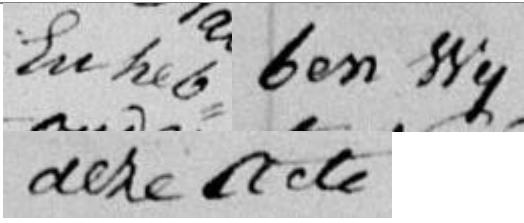
## Handwritten Death Record Outline in English

In the year<sup>1</sup> (full date written out), at (time), before us<sup>2</sup> (name and legal description of the civil recorder) appeared<sup>3</sup>, at time (time). Appeared before us<sup>3</sup> (Name of witness, age, and status/occupation) and (name of other witness, age, and status/occupation) residents of (place name) which announced to us, that on<sup>4</sup> (full date written out) of this year<sup>5</sup>, at (time), in (location), is deceased<sup>6</sup>, (name of deceased), age<sup>7</sup> (age) years<sup>7</sup>, occupation (occupation), born<sup>8</sup> and residing (location), spouse of<sup>9</sup> (name of spouse), son of<sup>10</sup> (names of parents, status, residence). And have we this act<sup>11</sup> after reading...

## Key Words and Phrases

The following key words will indicate the most essential genealogical information. Depending on the context, the information may come before or after the key word. Note that the Dutch words and phrases are written in standardized Dutch. In some cases, the examples provided may differ in spelling, diacritics, or conjugation of the word. Keep in mind that phrases and even words may be split between two lines.

English	Dutch	Information given	Example
1. In the year... variant: On the...	In het jaar... variant: Op heden...	<u>followed</u> by the date of registration, written out	
2. are before us...	zijn voor ons...	<u>followed</u> by the name and legal description of the registrar	

<b>3.</b> appeared...	ge- compareerd... variant: verschenen...	<u>followed</u> by the names of the informants	
<b>4.</b> who declared to us, that on the...	welke ons verklaard hebben, dat op den...	<u>followed</u> by the death date written out	
<b>5.</b> ...of this year	...dezes jaars	<u>preceded</u> by the death date written out	
<b>6.</b> is deceased ...	is overleden...	<u>followed</u> by the name of the deceased	
<b>7.</b> age...years	oud...jaar	<u>between</u> these words is the age of the deceased	
<b>8.</b> born...	geboren...	<u>followed</u> by the birth place; if residence is the same, it will state this before the name of the place.	
<b>9.</b> spouse of...	echtgenoot van...	<u>followed</u> by the name of the spouse	
<b>10.</b> son of...	zoon van...	<u>followed</u> by the names of the parents	
<b>11.</b> And have we this act...	En hebben wij deze acte	<u>followed</u> by the formulaic end of the document; it indicates the end of all genealogical information.	

### Other Helpful Vocabulary Words

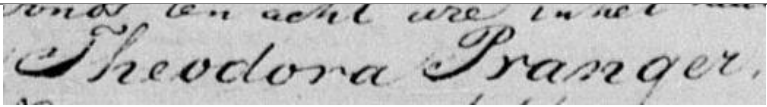
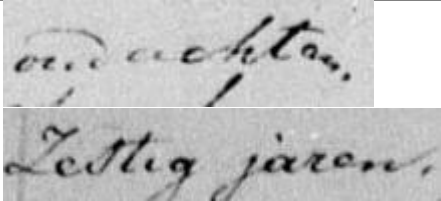
Before the name of a specific place is mentioned, you will see a word describing the type of location (i.e. "village" or "city"). When recording a person died, the record may say "today," "yesterday," "of the same month," or "of the same year," instead of rewriting the date. At times, a person's status may be recorded before or after his or her name, "peasant," "farmer," or "petty bourgeois" being the most common.

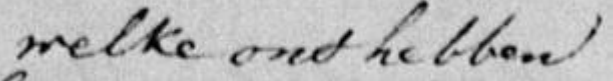
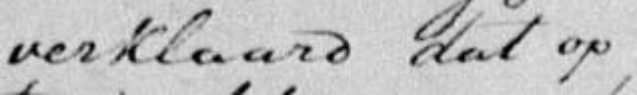
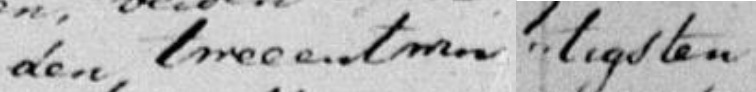
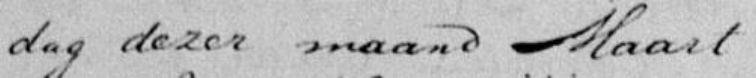
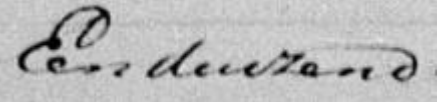
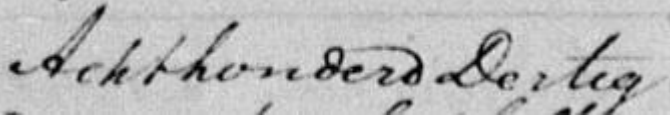
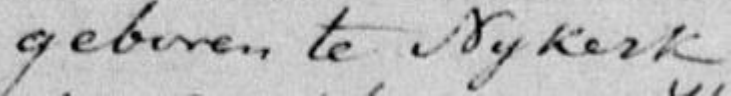
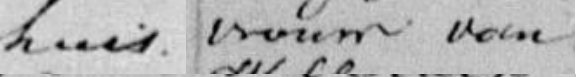
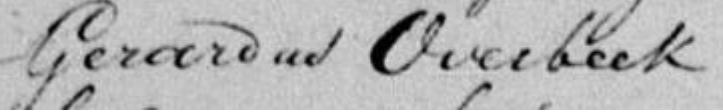
municipality	gemeente
city	stad
resident / resided	wonende / gewoond
here	hier / alhier
today	heden
yesterday	gisteren
day before yesterday	eergisteren
weeks	weken
months	maanden
of the current month	dezer maand
of the current year	dezes jaars
deceased	overleden
still living	nog levende
widow / widower	weduw / weduwnaar
left behind / survived by	pozostały / pozostawi
wife	huisvrouw / vrouw
husband	man
occupation	van beroep
son of	zoon van
daughter of	dochter van

## PRACTICE

The last page of this guide will be a large image of the death record you should use to complete the activity. You can also view the image on FamilySearch using by clicking [here](#), entry 102. Use the FamilySearch word list to complete this activity.

[https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Netherlands\\_Language\\_and\\_Languages](https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Netherlands_Language_and_Languages)

What is the name of the deceased?	Look for the key words <b>is overleden...</b> (is deceased). The name of the deceased follows.	 <p>“is overleden Theodora Pranger”. Is deceased, Theodora Pranger.</p>
How old was the deceased?	Look for the key words <b>oud</b> and <b>jaren</b> (age and years) right after the deceased’s name. Her age will be written between them.	 <p>“oud acht en zestig jaren”. She is sixty-eight.</p>

<p>What day did she die?</p>	<p>Look for the key words <b>welke ons hebben verklaard dat op den...</b> (who declared to us, that on the). The death date will follow. When you see the key words <b>dezer maand</b>, you must look at the initial date for the information about the year.</p>	 <p>“welke ons hebben”</p>  <p>“verklaard dat op”</p>  <p>“den twee en twintigsten”</p>  <p>“dag dezer maand Maart”</p>  <p>“een duizend”</p>  <p>“Acht honderd dertig”</p> <p>22 March 1830.</p>
<p>Where was she born?</p>	<p>Look for the key word <b>geboren</b> (born). The birth location will follow.</p>	 <p>“geboren te Nijkerk” She was born in Nijkerk.</p>
<p>Who was her husband?</p>	<p>Look for the key words <b>huisvrouw van</b> (wife of). His name follows.</p>	  <p>“huisvrouw van Gerardus Overbeek”. Wife of Gerardus Overbeek.</p>

## ACTIVITY

Now, test your skills you have learned in this “How to” Guide. The Activity is a way to check your knowledge and let you know you’ve mastered the Guide! [Click here](#) to try out the Activity.

In het jaar Eensduizend Acht-honderd Dertig den Duceentmtingsten dag der  
maand Maart des voormiddags ten vijfelf ure Zyn voorons Wynand van  
Wienraad, Lid vande Raad der Stad Amersfoort, by verhindering vanden Welhonden  
Ambtenaar vanden Burgerelyken Stand der Stad Amersfoort gecompareerd Jan Kooop,  
man oud acht onveertig jaren, en Evert Holst, oud Leesenveertig jaren, beiden aan-  
sprekers, wonende beiden alhier, welke ons hebben verklaard dat op den Tweeentm-  
tingsten dag dezer maand Maart des avonds ten acht ure in het huis Staande  
aan het Land Nyk Pl. N<sup>o</sup> III. is overleden Theodora Pranger, oud achten-  
Zestig jaren, buiten beraep, geboren te Nykerk, gevond hebben de alhier, huis-  
vrouw van Gerardus Overbeek, dochter van Hermanus Pranger e. Maria  
Willemsde, beiden overleden. — En hebben wy dese acte na gedane voorlezing  
met de comparanten ondertekend op dato als boven.

W. van Wijnenraad

E. G. P. A.  
J. Koopsman