

# Census advice sheet

## Census - Historical Context

Both the 1901 and 1911 census are snapshots of the lives of the inhabitants of the island of Ireland in early 20C and can help you understand the social background of you subject or, of your locality c 1916.

They can give you valuable information about your subject's background. You should note whether it was rural or urban, the occupations of their parents, the size and quality of their house, the number of outhouses.

Compare this with others in the same locality. Are the details approximately the same or, are their differences? If so, what are they?

In the summary N, you can get an overview of the townland as a whole and assess a context for and in towns and cities indicates how many people lived in an individual house?

## Overview

There are **four main forms** which were filled in:

**A Form:** contains the personal details of those in the house on the night of the census. This form was filled in by the head of the household.

**B1 Form:** House and Building details the quality of houses, the numbers of families who lived in each house, the number of people per room.

**B2 Form:** Out-offices and Farm buildings details what extra buildings, eg stables, piggeries are attached to a house.

**N Form:** Summary of number of houses in a townland or street, the number of male and female occupants in each house, and their religion.

This is filled out by the (the person who distributes and collects the forms to individual houses)

Location of the inhabitants of the household can be searched under County – DED – Townland / Street.

- **Townland/Street:** a small geographical area of land (rural areas) or streets in towns and cities
- **District Electoral Divisions (DEDs):** a number of townlands or streets which were used to divide a county for election purposes

Having examined the forms, you should be able to systematically organise your information for your subject under the following headings:

- **Family environment:** housing, occupation, education and religion and child mortality in 1911 Census.
- **Use of language:** English/ Irish or bilingual

## Other search options

There are other search options which can yield valuable information:

**'Browse'** allows you to search for someone through location, for example, going from Browse, select Kerry, then into a list of DEDs, click on one, e.g. Dingle will give you a list of streets/ townlands. Pick one e.g. Main Street will give you an overview of the entire street, its occupants and occupations.

## More Search Options

The website can be searched religion, occupation, relationship to head of family, literacy status, county or country of origin, Irish language proficiency, specified illnesses, and child survival information.

Click on **'more search options'** button at bottom of **Search** page you can select any or all of the fields from a drop down menu, with exception of occupation.

**Full information** on Search options.