SEVEN-STAGE OBSERVATION CARD

FORM REVISION	PRIVACY	REVIEW CADENCE
1.0	Share blank copies; observations may be sensitive	Use only when doing a structured review; avoid constant monitoring

The stages are descriptive, not prophecy. Use them to organize observed conditions, repair capacity, and convergence across systems. One bad event is not a stage. Record what you actually see and what would change your assessment.

STAGE REFERENCE

Stage	What you see	What you do
0 - Functioning friction	Isolated failures; repair works; appeals work; staffing recovers.	Ordinary preparedness; learn dependencies; keep records.
1 - Chronic friction	Recurring backlogs, maintenance delays, vacancies, emergency exceptions.	Document trends; remove household single points of failure.
2 - Workaround society	Informal fixes become necessary for normal service.	Document workarounds; build lawful redundancy; preserve official remedies.
3 - Substitution	Private / local / nonprofit systems permanently perform essential functions.	Evaluate accountability, access, exit, and continuity.
4 - Fragmentation	Basic institutional reality differs sharply by place, wealth, network, or jurisdiction.	Maintain a local systems map; strengthen cross-network relationships.
5 - Contested authority	Contradictory orders, uneven enforcement, legal uncertainty, competing legitimacy.	Preserve records; verify jurisdiction; prefer reversible decisions; seek qualified guidance for high-consequence choices.
6 - Rupture	Old authority or essential functions cannot reproduce themselves reliably across territory.	Shift to civilian continuity practices; prioritize survival, reunification, lawful evacuation or shelter, and essential functions.

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CURRENT OBSERVATION

Date / review window

Place / system reviewed

Observed stage - if any

Evidence supporting the assessment

Evidence that argues against the assessment

What would change this assessment

Source basis: Every Government Dies - Field Appendix A.
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