Prior law defined first degree murder as the killing of a human being:

1. When the offender has specific intent to kill or to inflict great bodily harm and is engaged in the perpetration or attempted perpetration of aggravated kidnapping, second degree kidnapping, aggravated escape, aggravated arson, aggravated rape, forcible rape, aggravated burglary, armed robbery, assault by drive-by shooting, first degree robbery, second degree robbery, simple robbery, terrorism, cruelty to juveniles, or second degree cruelty to juveniles.

2. When the offender has a specific intent to kill or to inflict great bodily harm upon a fireman, peace officer, or civilian employee of the Louisiana State Police Crime Laboratory or any other forensic laboratory engaged in the performance of his lawful duties, or when the specific intent to kill or to inflict great bodily harm is directly related to the victim's status as a fireman, peace officer, or civilian employee.

3. When the offender has a specific intent to kill or to inflict great bodily harm upon more than one person.

4. When the offender has specific intent to kill or inflict great bodily harm and has offered, has been offered, has given, or has received anything of value for the killing.

5. When the offender has the specific intent to kill or to inflict great bodily harm upon a victim who is under the age of 12 or 65 years of age or older.

6. When the offender has the specific intent to kill or to inflict great bodily harm while engaged in the distribution, exchange, sale, or purchase, or any attempt thereof, of a controlled dangerous substance listed in Schedules I, II, III, IV, or V of the Uniform Controlled Dangerous Substances Law.

7. When the offender has specific intent to kill or to inflict great bodily harm and is engaged in certain activities prohibited by prior law.

8. When the offender has specific intent to kill or to inflict great bodily harm and there has been issued by a judge or magistrate any lawful order prohibiting contact between the offender and the victim in response to threats of physical violence or harm which was served on the offender and is in effect at the time of the homicide.

9. When the offender has specific intent to kill or to inflict great bodily harm upon a victim who was a witness to a crime or was a member of the immediate family of a witness to a crime committed on a prior occasion and the killing was committed for the purpose of preventing or influencing the victim's testimony in any criminal action or proceeding whether or not such action or proceeding had been commenced or the killing was committed for the purpose of exacting retribution for the victim's prior testimony.

10. When the offender has a specific intent to kill or inflict great bodily harm and the offender has previously acted with specific intent to kill or inflict great bodily harm that resulted in the killing of one or more persons.

New law retains prior law, and further defines first degree murder to include the circumstance when the offender has a specific intent to kill or to inflict great bodily harm upon a taxicab driver who is in the course and scope of his employment.

New law defines "taxicab" as a motor vehicle for hire, carrying six passengers or less, including the driver thereof, that is subject to call from a garage, office, taxi stand, or otherwise.

Effective August 1, 2012.

(Amends R.S. 14:30(A)(10); adds R.S. 14:30(A)(11))