

GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU**ABSTRACT**

Post Mortem Report Form – Adoption of Model Autopsy forms and change of inquest procedure in death in custody cases – Orders issued.

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

G.O.Ms.No. 91

Dated 4.3.1998
Easwara, Masi 20
Tiruvalluvar Andu, 2028.

Read:

- 1) From the Secretary General, National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi, letter dt.29.8.1997.
- 2) From the Secretary, Public Department, D.O. letter No.6744/L&O.A/97-2, dated.10.11.1997.
- 3) From the Director of Medical Education, D.O. letter No.101876/G2/97, dated.18.12.1997.
- 4) From the Director of Medical and Rural Health Services, Letter No.119050/P&D.II/4/97, dt.19.12.97.

ORDER:

The Secretary General, National Human Rights Commission in his letter first read above has stated that the Autopsy Report forms now in use in the various States, are not comprehensive and, therefore, do not serve the purpose and also give scope for doubt and manipulation and that the Commission, has, therefore, decided to revise the autopsy form to plug the loopholes and to make it more incisive and purposeful. The Commission, after ascertaining the views of the States and discussing with the Experts in field and taking into consideration, though not entirely adopting the U.N. Model Autopsy protocol, has prepared a Model Autopsy form. The Commission has recommended the Government to prescribe the Model Autopsy Form

and the Additional procedure for inquest to be followed in the State with immediate effect.

2.The Director of Medical and Rural Health Services and the Director of Medical Education have been addressed for their remarks in the matter. The Director of Medical and Rural Health Services has opined that the suggestions of the National Human Rights Commission may be accepted in to. The Director of Medical Education has suggested certain modifications in the Form.

3. After careful examination on the suggestion of the Director of Medical Education and the Director of Medical and Rural Health Services, the Government have decided to accept the recommendation of National Human Rights Commission, New Delhi. Accordingly Government direct that the Director of Medical Education/Director of Medical and Rural Health Services/Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine/Director General of Police to adopt the Model Autopsy Form and the additional procedure for inquest as appended to this order for autopsy on deaths occurring in Jail /Police custody.

(BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR)

N. SUNDARDEVAN,
SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To

The Director of Medical Education, Chennai.5.

The Director of Medical and Rural Health Services, Chennai.6.

The Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Chennai6.

The Director General of Police, Chennai.2.

Cop to:

The Secretary to Government, Public (L&O) Department, Chennai.9.

//Forwarded by order//

Sd/-
(S. Joseph Selvaraj)

Section Officer

MODEL POST MORTEM REPORT FORM

(Read Carefully the instructions at Appendix 'A')

Name of Institution-----

Post Mortem Report No----- Date-----

Conducted by Dr-----

Date and Time of receipt of the
body and Inquest papers for Autopsy-----

Date and Time of Commencement
of Autopsy -----

Time of Completion of Autopsy-----

Date and Time of examination of the –dead body
at Inquest (as per Inquest Report) -----

Name and address of the person -----

Video recording the Autopsy-----

Note: The tape should be duly sealed, signed and dated and sent to the National Human Rights Commission, Sardar Patel Bhawan, Sansad Marg, New Delhi.

Case Particulars

1. (a) Name of deceased and
as entered in the Jail
or Police record-----

(b) S/O, D/O, W/O-----

(c) Address -----

2. Age (Approx): ----- Years; Sex: Male / Female

3. Body brought by (Name and rank of Police Officials)

(i) -----

(ii) -----

of Police Station -----

4. Identified by (Names and Addresses of relatives/persons acquainted)

(i) -----

(ii) -----

HOSPITAL DEAD BODIES – (Particulars as per hospital records)

Date and time of Admission in Hospital-----

Date and time of Death in Hospital-----

Central Registration No. of Hospital-----
-

SCHEDULE OF OBSERVATIONS

A. General

(1) Height ----- Cms

(2) Weight -----Kgs

(3) Physique

- (a) Lean/Medium/Obese

(b) Well built/Average built/ Poor-built /Emaciated

(4) Identification features (if body is unidentified)

(i) -----

(ii) -----

(iii) Finger prints be taken on separate sheet and attached by the Doctor

(5) Description of clothes worn – important features.

(6) Postmortem changes:

(a) As seen during inquest:

- Whether rigor mortis present-----

- Temperature (Rectal)-----

-Others-----

(b) As seen at Autopsy-

(7) (a) External general appearance-

(b) State of eyes

(c) Natural orifices

B. External Injuries:

(Mention Type, Shape, Length X Breadth & Depth of each injury and its relation to important body landmark. Indicate which injuries are fresh and which are old and their duration).

Instructions:-

- (i) Injuries be given serial number and mark similarly on the body diagrams attached.
- (ii) In stab injuries, mention state angles, margins direction inside body
- (iii) In fire arm injuries, mention about effects of fire also

Internal Examination

1. HEAD

- (a) Scalp Findings
- (b) Skull (Describe fractures here & show them on body diagram enclosed)
- (c) Meninges, meningeal spaces & Cerebral Vessels
(Hemorrhage & its locations, abnormal smell etc. be noted)
- (d) Brain findings & Weight (Weight -----gms)
- (e) Orbital, nasal & aural cavities -findings

2. NECK

- Mouth, Tongue & Pharynx
- Larynx & Vocal cords
- Condition of neck tissues
- Thyroid & other cartilage conditions
- trachea

3. CHEST

- Ribs and Chest wall
- Oesophagus
- Trachea & Bronchial Tree
- Pleural Cavities -B-
- L-

Lungs findings & Weight Right -----gms Left -----gms.

- Pericardial Sac
- Heart findings & Weight
- Large blood vessels

4. ABDOMEN

- Condition of abdominal wall
- Peritoneum and Peritoneal cavity
- Stomach (wall condition, contents & smell) (Weight -----gms)
- Small intestines including appendix
- Large intestines & Mesenteric vessels
- Liver including gall bladder (Weight-----gms)
- Spleen (Weight-----gms)
- Pancreas
- Kidneys finding &Weight Right -----gms & Left -----gms
- Bladder & Urethra
- Pelvic cavity tissues
- Pelvic Bones
- Genital organs (Note the condition of vagina, scrotum, presence of foreign body, presence of fetus, semen or any other fluid, and contusion, abrasion in and around genital organs)

5. SPINAL COLUMN & SPINAL CORD (TO BE OPENED WHERE INDICATED)

OPINION

- (i) Probable time since death (keep all factors including observations at inquest)
- (ii) Cause and manner of death – The cause of death to the best of my knowledge and belief is:-
 - (a) Immediate cause –
 - (b) Due to-
 - (c) Which of the injuries are ante mortem/postmortem and duration if ante mortem?
 - (d) Manner of causation of injuries.
 - (e) Whether injuries (individually or collectively) are sufficient to cause death in ordinary course of nature or not?
- (iii) Any other

SPECIMENS COLLECTED & HANDED OVER (PLEASE TICK)

- (a) Viscera (Stomach with contents, small intestine with contents, sample liver, kidney (one half of each), spleen, sample of blood on gauze pie (dried), any other viscera, Preservative used)
- (b) Clothes
- (c) Photographs (video cassettes in case of custody deaths, Finger print etc.)
- (d) Foreign body (like bullet, ligature etc)
- (e) Sample of preservative in cases of poisoning.
- (f) Sample of seal
- (g) Inquest papers (mention total numbers & initial them)
- (h) Slides from vagina, semen or any other material.

PM report in original, -----inquest papers, dead body, clothings and other articles

(mention there)duly sealed (Nos.-----) handed over to police official

No----- of PS -----

whose signatures are herewith-----

Signature-----

Name of Medical Officer-----
(in block letters)

Designation-----
SEAL

APPENDIX - 'A'**INSTRUCTIONS TO BE FOLLOWED CAREFULLY FOR DETENTION OF TORTURE**

Sl. No.	Torture Technique	Physical Findings
	<u>Beating</u>	
1	General	Scars, Bruises, Lacerations, Multiple fractures at different stages of healing, especially in unusual locations, which have not been medically treated
2	To the soles of the feet , or fractures of the bones of the feet	Haemorrhage in the soft tissues of the soles of the feet in ankles Aseptic necrosis.
3	With the palms on both ears simultaneously	Ruptured or Scarred tympanic membranes, injuries to external ear
4	On the abdomen, while lying on a table with the upper half of the body unsupported ("operating table")	Bruises on the abdomen. Back injuries. Ruptured abdominal viscera
5	To the head Haematomas.	Cerebral cortical atrophy. Scars, skull fractures. Bruises.
	<u>Suspension</u>	
6	By the wrists	Bruises scars about the wrists. Joint injuries
7	By the arms or neck	Bruises or Scars at the site of binding . Prominent lividity in the lower extremities.
8	By the ankles	Bruises or scars about the ankles. Joint injuries

9	Head down, from a horizontal pole placed under the knees with the wrists bound to the 'Jack'	Bruises or scars on the anterior forearms and backs of the knees marks on the wrists and ankles
10.	<u>Near Suffocation</u> Forced immersion of head in often contaminated "wet submarine".	Faecal material or other debris in the mouth pharynx, trachea, esophagus , Lungs, Intro-thoracic petecliae.
11	Tying of a plastic bag over the head ("dry submarine")	Intro - thoracic Petecliae
	<u>Sexual abuse</u>	
12	Sexual abuse	Sexually Transmitted Diseases pregnancy injuries to breasts external genitalia, vagina, anus or rectum.
	Forced posture	
13	Prolonged standing	Dependent adema, Petechias in low extremities
14	Forced straddling of a bar ("Saw horse")	Perineal or Scrotal haematomas
	Electric shock	
15	Cattle prod	Burns, appearance depends on the age of the injury. Immediately, spots, vesicles, and /or black exudates within a few weeks; circular, reddish macular scars. At several month small, white, reddish or brown spots resembling telangieotasian.
16	Wires connected to a source of electricity	

17	Heated metal skewer inserted into the anus	Per-anal or rectal burns
	<u>Miscellaneous</u>	
18	Dehydration	Vitreous humor electrolyte abnormalities.
	Animal bites (spiders, insects, rats, mice, dogs).	Bite marks

//True Copy//

Sd/-
(S. Joseph Selvaraj)

Section Officer