

CHAPTER 38 - CORONERS

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

SECTIONS 1.

PART I—SHORT TITLE, APPLICATION AND DEFINITIONS

1. Short title and application.
2. Interpretation.

PART II

3. (1) Duties of public and local governments.
(2) Procedure regarding prisoners and persons in police custody.

PART III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

4. Who may hold inquests.
5. When inquest to be held.
6. Power to order exhumation.
7. Inquest on all prisoners and on persons in police custody.
8. Inquest to be held by coroner of place where body lying.
9. Inquest where body destroyed or irrecoverable.
10. Coroner may postpone burial or cremation till after inquest.
11. Notice of death.
12. Duty of police officer or local government.

PART IV—POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION

13. Coroner may direct post-mortem examinations.
14. Medical practitioner to make an examination and report.

PART V—PROCEDURE AT INQUEST

15. Inquiries to be made by coroner.
16. Provisions regarding the viewing of body.
17. Coroner may summon witnesses.
18. Coroner not bound by rules of evidence.
19. Evidence how recorded.
20. Power to take evidence of witness unable to attend
21. Commissions
22. Inquest on Sunday or public holiday or in private
23. Adjournment of inquest
24. Staying of inquest and its resumption
25. Issue of summons or warrant.
26. The inquisition.
27. Where guilty party unknown.
28. Where guilty party cannot be found.
29. Return of inquisitions and powers of review by High Court.
30. Powers of High Court on application by or under authority of Attorney-General.
31. Delegation of powers by the Attorney-General.

PART VI—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

32. The coroner to transmit particulars of death and his finding thereon to registrar.
33. Penalty where body is buried without authority.
34. Obstructing medical practitioner or authority.
35. Power to make rules.
36. Forms.

FIRST SCHEDULE

Forms

SECOND SCHEDULE

Rules

CHAPTER 38

CORONERS

A LAW TO REGULATE THE APPOINTMENT, POWERS AND DUTIES OF CORONERS

PART I—SHORT TITLE, APPLICATION AND DEFINITIONS

1.—(1) This Law may be cited as the Coroners Law.

(2) Parts I, III, IV, V and VI shall apply:-

- (a) to all cases in the State where the deceased was a non-Nigerian; and
- (b) to such areas of the State or to such other class or classes of persons in the State or to such class or classes of persons within any specified areas therein as the Governor may by order declare.

(3) Parts I and II shall apply to all persons and areas not specifically mentioned either in subsection (2) or in any order made thereunder.

2. Definitions:-

"coroner" means any person empowered to hold inquests under this Law;

"medical practitioner" means any person registered or licensed as a medical practitioner under the Medical and Dental Practitioners Acts of 1963 to 1969;

"local government" includes any member of a local government.

PART II

3.—(1) In any area or in respect of any class or classes of persons in the State not made the subject of an Order made under the provisions of subsection (2) of section 1 when any body is found or where there is any suspicion that any deceased person died from causes other than natural causes, any person finding the body or becoming aware of the death shall forthwith inform the District Head, Village Head or Hamlet Head.

(2) A District Head, Village Head or Hamlet Head to whom information has been given under subsection (1) shall after forwarding to the local government, which shall then inform the appropriate police officer, proceed to the place where the body of the deceased is and shall there in the presence of two or more persons whom he shall summon for the purpose and who also shall be bound to attend make an investigation and draw up a report of the apparent cause of death describing such wounds, fractures and other marks of injuries as may be found on the body and stating in what manner or by what weapon or instrument such marks appear to have been inflicted and such other information relating to the death as he can discover.

(3) Where practicable the person making an investigation under subsection (2) shall be accompanied by a medical officer or dispensary attendant.

(4) Where there is any doubt regarding the cause of death or where for any other reason the person making the investigation considers it expedient and practicable to do so or where the medical officer or dispensary attendant attending such investigation so directs the body shall be brought to the nearest hospital or to some other convenient place for further examination.

(5) Except in case of necessity the burial shall not take place until leave has been obtained from a justice of the peace.

(6) On completion of the investigation the District Head, Village Head or Hamlet Head, as the case may be, shall forward his report and the record, if any, of his investigation to the local government, which shall then inform the appropriate police officer.

(7) Whenever any prisoner, or any person in police custody, shall die from any cause whatsoever, the local government of the area in which such death occurred shall cause an inquiry to be held as to the cause of such death and shall, as soon as possible, send a written report of such inquiry, signed by the secretary of the local government, with all convenient dispatch to an area court having jurisdiction in the area in which the death occurred which court shall take charge of such report.

(8) Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with the provisions of subsection (1) shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to a fine of two hundred naira. Proceedings for an offence against this section may be taken either before a magistrate's court or area court.

PART III—GENERAL PROVISIONS

4.—(1) Every magistrate may hold inquests under this Law.

(2) The Attorney-General may empower any other fit and proper person to hold inquests under this Law within such area as the Attorney-General may specify.

(3) The Attorney-General shall cause to be published in the State Gazette notice of the name of any person empowered to hold inquests under subsection (2) and of the area within which he may hold the same.

(4) Any inquest commenced by a coroner may be continued, resumed, or reopened in the manner provided by this Law by such coroner or by his successor in office.

5. Whenever a coroner is informed that the body of a deceased person is lying within his jurisdiction and that there is reasonable cause to suspect that such person has died either a violent or an unnatural death, or has died a sudden death of which the cause is unknown, or that such person has died confined in a lunatic asylum, or in any place or circumstances which, in the opinion of the coroner, makes the holding of an inquest necessary or desirable, such coroner shall, subject as hereinafter in this section provided, hold an inquest on such body as soon as is practicable:

Provided that:-

(a) whenever it shall appear to the coroner, either from the report of a medical practitioner rendered under section 13 or otherwise, that the death is due to natural causes, and that the body shows no appearance of death being attributable to or of having been accelerated by violence or by any culpable or negligent conduct either on the part of the deceased or of any other person, it shall thereupon be lawful for the coroner at his discretion (except in the case specified in section 7) to dispense with the holding of an inquest, and, in the case of a registrable death he shall notify the registrar appointed under the provisions of the Births and Deaths (Compulsory Registration) Act.

(b) where the coroner is informed that criminal proceedings have been or are about to be instituted against any person already in custody or about to be arrested in respect of such death, the inquest shall not be commenced, or if commenced shall not be continued or resumed, until such proceedings have been concluded.

6. Notwithstanding any law or custom to the contrary enacted or obtaining, whenever it shall appear to any coroner that the body of any person, who has died in circumstances requiring the holding of an inquest thereon, has been buried without being viewed or without such inquest having been held, or where such inquest, although held, has been quashed or reopened, it shall be lawful for such coroner by his warrant as in Form A set out in the First Schedule to order the exhumation of such body; and he shall after such exhumation proceed to hold an inquest on such body and thereupon direct the reinterment thereof; and the expenses of such exhumation and reinterment shall be paid, upon the coroner's order, out of the general revenue:

Provided that such exhumation shall not be ordered in any case where in the opinion of the coroner it would be injurious to public health, or where there is no reasonable probability of a satisfactory result being obtained thereby.

7. Whenever any prisoner, or any person in police custody, shall die from any cause whatsoever, a coroner of the district in which such death has occurred shall hold an inquest and, where such

death is in execution of a judgment of death, the inquest shall be held within four hours thereafter.

8. The coroner only within whose jurisdiction the body of any person, upon whose death an inquest ought to be held, is lying, shall hold the inquest, notwithstanding that the cause of death arose elsewhere; and if anybody is found in any river, creek, or in any inland waters, the inquest shall be held by the coroner within whose jurisdiction the body is first brought to land:

Provided that where it appears to a coroner by whom an inquest has been commenced that, owing to special circumstances to be entered upon the record of the inquest, it is expedient for the inquest to be continued by another coroner in the State, he shall after viewing the body (if such view is necessary in accordance with the provisions of section 16(1)) and making such entry upon the record as is required to be made under the provisions of section 16(4), refer the record to such other coroner; and such other coroner shall thereupon, subject to any directions in that behalf which may be given by the High Court and which the High Court is hereby empowered to give, continue the inquest and conclude the same in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

9. Where a coroner has reason to believe that a death has occurred in the area within which he has jurisdiction in such circumstances that an inquest ought to be held, and that owing to the destruction of the body by fire or otherwise or to the fact that the body is lying in a place from which it cannot be recovered, an inquest cannot be held except by virtue of the provisions of this section, he may, if he considers it desirable so to do, hold an inquest touching the death, and the law relating to inquests shall apply with such modifications as may be necessary in consequence of the inquest being held otherwise than on or after view of a body lying within the coroner's jurisdiction.

10. A coroner may prohibit the burial or cremation of any body lying within his jurisdiction until an inquest shall have been held.

11. —(1) When anybody is found or a person has died in such circumstances as to make the holding of an inquest under this Law necessary or desirable it shall be the duty of any person finding the body or becoming aware of the death forthwith to inform the nearest local government or police officer and upon receiving any such information such local government or police officer shall notify the coroner having jurisdiction to hold an inquest. Any person who fails without good cause to inform the local government or police officer as required by this section shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction shall be liable to a fine of two hundred naira.

(2) In the case of a death occurring to which the provisions of section 7 apply it shall be the duty of the person in charge of the premises forthwith to notify the coroner having jurisdiction to hold an inquest. Any such person who fails so to notify the said coroner shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction shall be liable to a fine of two hundred naira.

12.—(1) On information being given to a local government or Police officer in pursuance of subsection (1) of section 11, such government, or police officer or a person authorised in that behalf by local government or police officer, hereinafter referred to as the authority, shall proceed to the place where the body of the deceased person is lying and shall make a full investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of the deceased and the probable cause thereof, and may arrest any person reasonably suspected of having caused the death.

(2) The authority shall without delay cause notice of the death as in Form B (or a translation thereof in such written language as the authority understands) set out in the First Schedule to be sent to a coroner having jurisdiction to hold an inquest stating any particulars concerning the cause of death disclosed by the investigation and giving an opinion as to whether or not the death was due to any unlawful act or omission.

(3) In any case where the death is believed by the authority not to be due to any unlawful act or omission, such authority shall if the dead body is not already buried, view the body and authorise its interment, but in all other cases the authority shall cause the body to be taken to the nearest hospital or other place appointed for the reception of dead bodies unless the authority certifies to the coroner that the requirements of this subsection cannot reasonably be complied with, having regard to the condition of the body, the weather and the distance to be travelled.

PART IV—POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION

13. If any coroner considers it necessary with a view to investigating the circumstances of the death of any person, to obtain a medical report on the appearance of the body of such person, and as to the conclusions to be drawn therefrom, he may, by written order as in Form C set out in the First Schedule, require any Government medical officer or, in the absence of such officer, any other medical practitioner within his jurisdiction to make an examination of the body and to report thereon.

14. Every medical practitioner upon the receipt of such order shall, unless he procures the services of some other medical practitioner to perform the duty, immediately make an examination of the body, with a view to determining therefrom the cause of death, and to ascertaining the circumstances connected therewith, and shall make a report in writing to the coroner describing the appearance of the body, and the conclusions which he draws therefrom touching the death of such person. The examination shall extend, when the medical practitioner considers it necessary but not otherwise, to such dissection of the body, with or without an analysis of the contents of the stomach or intestines, as he may think requisite. The report shall be as in Form D set out in the First Schedule, and shall state the cause of death, and shall be signed and dated by the medical practitioner. Such report on being read at the inquest by the coroner shall be *prima facie* evidence of the facts therein stated without further proof, unless it is proved that the medical practitioner purporting to sign the report did not in fact sign it.

PART V—PROCEDURE AT INQUEST

15. At every inquest the coroner shall take on oath such evidence as is procurable as to the

identity of the deceased, and the time, place and manner of his death.

16.—(1) At or before the first sitting of an inquest on a body, the coroner shall view the body or shall satisfy himself that the body has been viewed by a police officer, medical practitioner or local government:

Provided that, when an inquest on the body has been previously opened, it shall not be necessary upon a resumed, continued or subsequent inquest for the body to be viewed a second time.

(2) An order authorising the burial of a body upon which it has been decided to hold an inquest may be issued at any time after the body has been viewed.

(3) If the body has been buried and has not been viewed in the manner provided in subsection (1), the coroner shall order the exhumation of the body for the purpose of a view in the manner provided by section 6 unless he certifies that in his opinion such exhumation would be injurious to the public health or that no satisfactory result would be obtained thereby.

(4) In any case in which the coroner himself has viewed the body he shall certify the fact upon the record of the inquest, and in other cases he shall record evidence, if any, of the view of the body by an administrative officer, a police officer, medical practitioner or local government.

17.—(1) A coroner holding an inquest shall have and may exercise all the powers of a magistrate with regard to summoning and compelling the attendance of witnesses and requiring them to give evidence, and with regard to the production of any document or thing at such inquest.

(2) Every summons and warrant of arrest and summons to produce shall be in writing signed by the coroner.

(3) Where the inquest concerns the death of a person executed in pursuance of a death warrant the medical practitioner who was present at the execution shall be an essential witness at such inquest.

(4) The provisions of any law in force relating to summonses, warrants and summonses to produce issued by a magistrate shall apply to summonses, warrants and summonses to produce issued by a coroner.

18. A coroner holding an inquest shall not be bound by any rules of evidence which may pertain to civil or criminal proceedings, but if any witness objects to answer any question on the ground that it will tend to incriminate him, he shall not be required to answer the question nor be liable to any penalty for refusing so to answer.

19. The evidence of every witness shall be taken down and recorded in the form of a deposition in the manner prescribed for preliminary inquiries under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code Law.

20. Where any person within the coroner's jurisdiction who is able to give material evidence in respect of any inquest is, owing to illness or other cause which appears satisfactory to the

coroner, unable to attend at the place where the coroner usually sits, it shall be lawful for the coroner to take the deposition of such person in the place where such person is.

21.—(1) Whenever in the course of any inquest it appears to the coroner that any person without the jurisdiction of the coroner is able to give material evidence in respect of the inquiry and that the attendance of such person cannot be procured without an amount of delay, expense or inconvenience, which, in the circumstances of the case, would be unreasonable, the coroner shall apply to the High Court, giving the reasons for the application, and the High Court may:-

- (a) issue a commission to any magistrate (whether exercising jurisdiction in the State or any other State), within the local limits of whose jurisdiction such person resides, to take the evidence of such person; or
- (b) reject the application.

(2) The magistrate to whom the commission is issued shall proceed to the place where the witness is or shall summon the witness before him and shall take down his evidence in the same manner, and may for this purpose exercise the same powers, as in a preliminary inquiry held under the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code Law.

(3) Any interested party may appear before such magistrate by advocate or in person, and may examine, cross-examine and re-examine, as the case may be, such witness.

(4) After such commission has been duly executed it shall be returned, together with the deposition of the witness examined thereunder, to the High Court, who shall forward the commission, the return thereto and the deposition to the coroner who made the application therefor.

(5) On the receipt thereof by the said coroner such commission, return thereto, and deposition shall be filed with and form part of the inquest proceedings relating thereto.

22.—(1) A coroner may lawfully hold inquests on any Sunday or public holiday.

(2) If the coroner thinks it expedient in the interests of justice that any inquest should be held in private, he shall hold the same in private.

(3) Whenever an inquest is held in private, the coroner shall record his reasons for so holding it.

23. A coroner holding an inquest in any place may adjourn the inquest to another day and may order the adjourned inquest to be held in the same or any other place.

24.—(1) If in the course of an inquest, the coroner is of opinion that sufficient grounds have been disclosed for instituting criminal proceedings in connection with the death against any person already in custody or whose arrest is contemplated, the coroner shall stay the inquest until the trial of the person to be charged is concluded or he is discharged under the provisions of section 159, 169 or 253 of the Criminal Procedure Code or it appears improbable that such person will be found.

(2) Where an inquest is stayed in pursuance of subsection (1), the coroner may resume and conclude the inquest after the conclusion of the criminal proceedings if he is of opinion that

public benefit is likely to result from his so doing; but, if he is of opinion that no public benefit is likely to result from his so doing, he shall certify his opinion to that effect and transmit to the Attorney-General a copy of the inquest proceedings:

Provided that, if in the course of the criminal proceedings any person has been charged upon information, then upon the resumed inquest no inquisition shall charge that person with an offence of which he could have been convicted on such information or contain any finding which is inconsistent with the determination of any matter by the result of those proceedings.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (2) where an inquest is stayed in pursuance of subsection (1), and it is ascertained that the person to be charged cannot be found, the coroner shall resume and conclude the inquest.

(4) For the purpose of this section, the expression "the criminal proceedings" means the proceedings before a magistrate's court and before any court to which the accused person is committed for

trial or is charged or before which an appeal from the conviction of that person is heard, and criminal proceedings shall not be deemed to be concluded until no further appeal can, without an extension of time being granted by any court to which an appeal lies, be made in the course thereof.

25. If, during the course or at the close of any inquest, the coroner is of opinion that sufficient grounds are disclosed for making a charge against any person in connection with the death, he may issue a summons or warrant to secure the attendance of such person before any magistrate's court having jurisdiction, and may bind over any witness who has been examined by or before him on a recognizance with or without surety to appear to give evidence before such court.

26. After the view (if any) of the body and hearing the evidence, the coroner holding the inquest shall give his verdict and certify it by an inquisition in writing as in Form E set out in the First Schedule, showing, so far as such particulars have been proved to him, who the deceased was, and how, when and where the deceased came by his death:

Provided that, where the inquest concerns the death of a person executed in pursuance of a death warrant the verdict and inquisition shall include a finding as to whether the death was instantaneous and the person executed was the person mentioned in such warrant. Such inquisition and verdict shall be made and signed in duplicate and one of the originals shall be delivered to the sheriff.

27. If, at the close of any inquest, the coroner is of opinion that there is ground for suspecting that some person is guilty of an offence in respect of the matter inquired into, but cannot ascertain who such person is, he shall certify his opinion to that effect and transmit a copy of the proceedings to the superintendent of police of the province in which the inquest is held.

28. Where a copy of the proceedings upon any inquest has been transmitted to a superintendent of police under section 27 and the guilty person remains undiscovered, and if, in the opinion of the superintendent of police, there is no probability that such person will be discovered, he shall certify his opinion to that effect and transmit the copy of the proceedings to the Attorney-General.

29.—(1) Every inquisition, including the depositions and the recognizances of the witnesses, if

any, shall be transmitted by the coroner, with all convenient despatch to the judicial division of the High Court in which the inquisition took place and the registrar of such division shall take charge of such proceedings.

(2) The High Court may examine the record of any such proceedings for the purpose of satisfying itself as to the correctness, legality or propriety of any finding or verdict and as to the regularity of such proceedings.

(3) Where the High Court by reason of such examination is not satisfied as to the correctness, legality or propriety of any finding or verdict it may, after affording the Attorney-General or his representative an opportunity of being heard therein, exercise any of the powers conferred upon it by subsection (1) of section 30.

(4) Where the High Court by reason of such examination is not satisfied as to the regularity of the proceedings, it may take such action, not involving an alteration of the finding or verdict, as it may think necessary to cure such irregularity.

30.—(1) Where the High Court, upon application made by the Attorney-General in the judicial division of the court in which an inquest has been held or would fall to be held, is satisfied that, it is necessary or desirable to do so, it may:-

(a) order an inquest to be held touching the death of any person;

(b) direct any inquest to be reopened for the taking of further evidence, or for the inclusion in the proceedings thereof and consideration with the evidence, already taken, of any evidence taken in any judicial proceeding which may be relevant to any issue determinable at such inquest, and the recording of a fresh verdict upon the proceedings as a whole;

(c) quash the verdict in any inquest substituting therefor some other verdict which appears to be lawful and in accordance with the evidence recorded or included as hereinbefore in this section provided; or

(d) quash any inquest, with or without ordering a new inquest to be held.

(2) The provisions of this section shall apply to all inquests and the verdicts therein, whether or not such inquests and verdicts are in pursuance of the provisions of this Law.

(3) For the purpose of this section the expression "judicial proceeding" means a proceeding before any court, tribunal or person having by law power to hear, receive and examine evidence on oath.

31. The Attorney-General may order in writing that all or any of the powers vested in him by sections 29 and 30 be vested for the time being in the Solicitor-General or a state counsel and the exercise of those powers by the Solicitor-General or a state counsel shall then operate as if they had been exercised by the Attorney-General:

Provided that the Attorney-General may in writing revoke any order made by him under this section.

PART VI—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

32. Where a death is required by law to be registered and an inquest is held, the coroner shall inquire of the particulars required to be registered concerning the death, and his finding thereon shall be attached to and form part of the inquisition; and the coroner shall send to the registration

authority within five days after the finding is given, a certificate under his hand, giving information concerning the death and specifying his finding with regard to the said particulars and to the cause of death, and stating also the time and place at which the inquest was held.

33.—(1) Any person who without lawful authority or excuse interrs, or cremates any body, the burial or cremation of which has been prohibited under section 10, or the body of any person who has died in police custody or in any prison, or of any person who has died in any or the circumstances mentioned in section 5, shall be guilty of an offence and on conviction shall be liable to a fine of five hundred naira.

(2) Where any person is charged with having committed an offence under this section the onus of proving that he had lawful authority or excuse shall be on the person charged.

34. Any person who obstructs a medical practitioner, a police officer or a local government in the execution of any duty imposed upon him by this Law shall be guilty of an offence and upon conviction shall be liable to a fine of two hundred naira.

35.—(1) The Governor may make rules prescribing the scale of fees to be paid to medical practitioners for any examination, autopsy or other service required of them under this Law.

(2) The rules in the Second Schedule shall be deemed to have been made under the power herein conferred.

36. The forms set out in the First Schedule shall be used for the several matters to which they relate with such variations as circumstances may require. The Governor may from time to time by order published in the State Gazette amend, revoke or add to the said Schedule.

FIRST SCHEDULE
FORM A
Coroners Law
ORDER FOR EXHUMATION

To.....District.

To.....

Whereas it appears that..... has died in circumstances requiring the holding of an inquest upon his body and that the body of the said.....has been buried atwithout such inquest being held (or without the said body being viewed) (or that the inquest held at.....on theday of..... was insufficient):

These are to charge and command you that you forthwith cause the said body to be taken up (and viewed) (or, and safely conveyed to

.....in the above-named district) that I may proceed to inquire into the cause of the death of the said

(or as the case may be).

Herein fail not.

Given under my hand at.....this.....day
of.....

.....
Coroner.

FORM B
Coroners Law
DEATH REPORT TO CORONER
Particulars of deceased, etc.

1. Name, sex and approximate age of deceased.....
2. Nationality or Tribe.....
3. Occupation.....
4. Date, hour and place of death.....
5. Supposed cause of death.....
6. Person who found body or gave first information of death.....
7. Date and hour first information received by police or local authority
.....
8. Circumstances of death and names of persons who give information
thereof.....
9. Name of authority making first investigation.....
.....
10. Date and time of investigation.....
11. Describe where and how body found.....
.....
12. Marks of violence (if any).....
.....
13. Circumstances of suspicion (if any).....
.....
14. Date and hour when report sent to coroner.....
.....

Having made full inquiries I have the honour to report that* :-

(a) there are no suspicious circumstances surrounding the death nor are there any marks of violence on the body;

(b) in my opinion an inquest ought to be held;

(c) the body has been viewed by me and buried at
I am satisfied that the body viewed by me was the body of

.....

(d) the body has been sent by me to.....

(e) the following persons have been arrested (or are about to be arrested)

in connection with the death on the charges stated hereunder:-

.....
.....
Station.....

.....
Authority.

I order that an inquest be opened at.....
on theday of....., 19.....
(or) I do not consider that an inquest is necessary or desirable.
Date.....

.....
Coroner.

FORM C

Coroners Law ORDER FOR POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION

To Dr.....
.....

Where I am credibly informed that one.....
has died in circumstances which may require the holding of an inquest under the Coroners Law,
you are hereby authorised and required to make
a post-mortem examination of the said
.....which
will be delivered to you byand to
make a report to me thereon:
Given under my hand atthisday
of....., 19.....

.....
Coroner.

FORM D

Coroners Law REPORT OF MEDICAL PRACTITIONER

1. Date and hour of receipt of corpse at mortuary
2. Condition of corpse on arrival.....
3. Mode in which packed.....
4. Date and hour of holding examination.....
5. Name of deceased (if known).....
6. By whom identified.....
7. Approximate age.....
8. Sex.....

9. Height, colour of hair, eyes, peculiar clothing and any other marks or means of identity

10. Probable date of death.....

11. Medical report.....

I certify the cause of death in my opinion to be.....

Date.....(Signed).....

.....
(Qualifications.)

FORM E

Coroners Law THE INQUISITION

An inquisition taken at.....in the district of.....in the.....State of Nigeria, the.....day of 19.....before, on the view of the body of onethen and there lying dead. Now I,, charged to inquire when, where, how and after what manner the said.....came to his/her death say that the following particulars have been disclosed:-

1. Name of deceased
2. Residence and occupation
3. Means of identity
4. Where found, when, and under what circumstances
5. Date of death
6. Cause of death.....
7. Offence (if any) to which death attributable.....

And I, the saiddo say that my verdict is

In witness whereof I have to this inquisition set my hand the day of....., 19.....

Station.....

Coroner.

FORM F Coroners Law SUMMONS TO WITNESS

To

Whereas I am credibly informed that you can give evidence concerning the death of.....

Now, therefore, you are hereby required to attend at
.....on theday of
....., 19.....atof the clock in the
.....noon, in order to give evidence before me touching the death of the said
and herein fail not.

Dated thisday of, 19.....

.....
Coroner.

SECOND SCHEDULE

1. These rules may be cited as the Coroners (Post-mortem Fees) Rules.

2. A medical practitioner required by order of the Coroner to examine and report upon a body and upon whose report the Coroner shall dispense with an inquest and shall be entitled to a fee of two hundred naira for such report and a further fee of two hundred naira if he shall have made a dissection:

Provided that where the report is made on the body of a person whom it was the duty of a medical practitioner in the service of the Government to attend, such medical practitioner shall only be entitled to the said fee of two hundred naira for any dissection made.

3. A medical practitioner required by order of the Coroner to examine and report upon a body which an inquest is held and who is not summoned to give evidence in support of such report shall be entitled to a fee of two hundred naira for such report and a further fee of two hundred naira if he shall have made a dissection:

Provided that where the report is made on the body of a person whom it was the duty of a medical practitioner in the service of the Government to attend, such medical practitioner shall only be entitled to the said fee of two hundred naira for any dissection made.

4. A medical practitioner summoned by the Coroner to give evidence at any inquest in support of his examination and report shall be entitled to a fee of two hundred naira for the first day and further like fee for each day after the first:

Provided that where the inquest held is upon the body of a person whom it was the duty of a medical practitioner in the service of the Government to attend, such medical practitioner shall not be entitled to any fee for attending to give evidence as aforesaid.

5. Any medical practitioner who is required to superintend the Exhumation of a body shall be entitled to a fee of two hundred naira in addition to any other fees to which he may be entitled under the provisions of these rules.

6. Any reasonable travelling expenses, to be assessed by the Coroner which have been incurred by any medical practitioner in complying with any service ordered to be performed by him shall be payable to such medical practitioner.

7. No benefits shall accrue and no payments shall be made under these rules to a medical practitioner who is in receipt of staff pay.