



BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY

**REVISED REGULATIONS OF THE
BRITISH INDIAN OCEAN TERRITORY**

THE CORONERS RULES 1985

CHAPTER B.3

Revised Edition

Showing the law as at 1 September 2020

Published by Authority

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This is a revised edition of the law, prepared by the Law Revision Commissioner under the authority of the Law Revision Ordinance 2015 and contains:

The Coroners Rules 1985 – SI No.2 of 1985

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In exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 12 of the Coroners Ordinance 1985, the Chief Justice has made the following rules of court –

Citation.

1. These rules of court may be cited as the Coroners Rules 1985, RRBIOT c.B.3.

Post-Mortem Examinations

Time for post-mortem examinations.

2. If a Coroner orders that a post-mortem examination be made, it shall be made as soon after the death of the deceased as is reasonably practicable.

Notification of and attendance at post-mortem examinations.

3. (1) The Coroner may inform any person of the date, hour and place at which a post-mortem examination will be held and may, in his discretion, permit him to attend.

(2) A person attending a post-mortem examination by virtue of subrule (1) shall not interfere with the performance of the examination.

Preservation of material.

4. A person making a post-mortem examination shall make provision so far as possible for the preservation, for such period as the Coroner thinks fit, of material which, in the opinion of the person making the examination, bears upon the cause of death.

Post-mortem report.

5. (1) A person who has made a post-mortem examination shall report to the Coroner in Form C1 set out in Schedule 1.

(2) Unless authorized by the Coroner, the person who made the post-mortem report shall not supply a copy of his report to any person other than the Coroner.

Registers, Exhibits, Certificates and Copies

Register of deaths.

6. The Coroner shall keep an indexed register of all deaths reported to him, which shall contain the particulars specified in Form C2 set out in Schedule 1.

Coroner's certificate.

7. At the conclusion of an inquest, the Coroner shall prepare a certificate in Form C3 set out in Schedule 1 and shall furnish the Registrar of Births and Deaths with a copy thereof.

Retention and disposal of exhibits.

8. Every exhibit at an inquest shall, unless a court otherwise directs, be retained by the Coroner until he is satisfied that it is not likely to be, or will no longer be, required for the purposes of any other legal proceeding and shall then, if a request for its delivery has been made by a person who appears to the Coroner to be entitled to the possession thereof, be delivered to that person or, if no such request has been made, be destroyed or otherwise disposed of as the Coroner sees fit.

Other documents.

9. Any document, other than an exhibit at an inquest, in the possession of a Coroner in connection with an inquest or post-mortem examination, shall be delivered by the Coroner to the person who, in the opinion of the Coroner, is the proper person to have possession of it.

Copies.

10. A Coroner shall, on application and on payment of the fee prescribed in Schedule 2, supply to any person who, in the opinion of the Coroner, is a properly interested person, a copy of any notes of evidence or depositions taken by the Coroner at an inquest, or of any report of a post-mortem examination, or of any document put in evidence at an inquest, or of any Coroner's certificate, or may, on application, permit such person to inspect any such notes, deposition, report, document or certificate.

SCHEDULE 1

FORMS

Form C1

POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION REPORT

Name of deceased
Observers present at examination
Date and time of examination
Place where examination performed
Estimated time of death

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION	
Apparent age	
Height	
Rigor mortis	
Nourishment	
Marks of violence, or identification, e.g. tattoo marks, old scars	
INTERNAL EXAMINATION	
<i>Cranial cavity</i>	
Skull	
Brain, meninges, etc.	
<i>Thoracic cavity</i>	
Mouth, tongue, oesophagus, larynx, trachea, lungs and pleurae	
Pericardium, heart and blood vessels	
<i>Abdominal cavity</i>	
Stomach and contents	
Peritoneum, intestines and mesenteric glands	
Liver and gall bladder	
Spleen	
Kidneys and ureters	
Bladder and urine	
Generative organs	
Are all other organs healthy?	
The cause of death as shown by the examination appears to be	
Any further remarks	
Signature and qualifications	
Address	

Form C2

REGISTER OF DEATHS REPORTED TO THE CORONER.

Date on which death is reported	Burial/ Cremation order number	Name of deceased	Sex and age of deceased	Cause of death	Verdict at inquest (if any)

Form C3

CERTIFICATE OF CORONER.

I hereby certify that on the.....day of.....20....., I held, under the provisions of the Coroners Ordinance, an inquest as to the cause of a death in and that the following particulars were then disclosed –

1. Name of deceased.
2. Residence and occupation.
3. Where found, and when, and in what circumstances.
4. Date of death.
5. Cause of death.

Note.- The following are the names, residences and callings of the witnesses examined –

Dated the..... day of.....20.....

(Signed.) *Coroner.*

SCHEDULE 2

FEES

1. For a copy of any deposition, report, notes of evidence or document put in evidence	
(a) if made by photocopying, for each sheet	£0.15
(b) if typewritten, for each page or part of a page as typed	£1.00
(c) if a carbon copy of a typewritten copy, ordered at the same time, for each page or part of a page as typed	£0.25
2. For a copy of the Coroner's certificate	£1.00
3. For certifying a copy to be a true copy of the original	
(a) if a photocopy, for each page	£0.25
(b) if typewritten, for each page	£0.50

