

TOXICOLOGICAL AND FORENSIC EXAMINATION

(Read the instructions on the back of this form before completing it and packing and despatching specimens and exhibits to the laboratory).

Police Station..... Date

Police Case No..... Hospital or P.M. No.....

Name of sick or deceased person

Name of Identifying Witness

1. Approximate age 2. Sex.....

3. Date and hour of onset of symptoms

3. Symptoms of illness (noted when patient is treated or from other sources):-

(a) State of mouth

(b) State of pupils.....

(c) Vomiting.....

(d) Diarrhoea.....

(e) Cramp.....

(f) Delirium.....

(g) Sleep or coma.....

5. Progress of patient (with details of treatment if any)

6. Date and hour of death

7. Date and hour of burial.....

8. Date and hour of exhumation (if any).....

9. Post mortem summary: -

(a) Cause of death

(b) Signs of any disease (state organs affected)

(c) Signs of poisoning in organs.....

(d) Indications of type of poison suspected.....

(e) Date and hour of post-mortem.....

10. Specimens sealed by me/in my presence and handed over to

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Signature of Medical Officer

Note:- Organs or other specimens obtained at autopsy which are to be sent to the Government Chemist or the Pathologist for examination MUST BE LISTED on Police Form 17A which MUST BE ATTACHED to this form.

II. POLICE REPORT:-

(a) What were the occupation and habits of the deceased?.....

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(b) Have you any reason to suspect that he has been poisoned?.....

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(c) Is there any reason to suspect suicide or accidental death?

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(d) Has the deceased been under recent medical treatment and if so for what disease and for how long has he been treated?

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(e) Give the name and address of the doctor who treated the deceased and if possible obtain from the doctor a statement of the drugs administered.....

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(f) Has the deceased been taking drugs apart from the above? If so, state what drugs and forward sealed samples if available.....

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(g) Have you searched the house of the deceased for any drugs other articles of a suspicious nature?

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(h) Did any person share the last meal with the deceased and if so, were they affected?

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(i) Have you any reasons to suspect the employment of any particular poison or class of poison? If so, what?.....

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(j) Have you any other information that throws any light on the cause of the death of the deceased? If so, state it here.....

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(k) Have you made any arrests in connection with this case?.....

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(l) Habits and occupation of accused or any suspects

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Note: - if any arrests are made subsequent to the report the government chemist, Kampala, should be informed as early as possible.

(m) Name and rank of the Police Officer making this report

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Procedure for Collection and Despatch of Exhibits and Specimens to the Laboratories

Police Form 17 and/or Form 17A must accompany all specimens and exhibits and sent to Government Chemists or Pathologists for examination.

Section 3 or 9 on the front page of this form need to be completed in cases of suspected POISONING only. Where disease exists a copy of Police Form 48 must be enclosed.

The following specimens, properly packed in accordance with packing instructions given below, should be sent to the Government Chemist, P. O Box 41 Kampala.

1. Specimens of any vomit and urine collected.
2. The remains of any food eaten by the sick or deceased person.
3. Specimens of any drugs found in the house of the sick or deceased person.
4. Specimens of any drugs believed to be the cause of illness or death.
5. Where native medicines are concerned fresh botanical specimens (with flowering parts if possible) of any plants from which the medicine is thought to be derived. It is important that every effort be made to obtain these.
6. The following tissues of the deceased taken at the post-mortem examination and placed separately in rectified spirit in clean glass jars: -
 - (a) One Kidney
 - (b) Not less than one half of the liver
 - (c) The stomach and its contents ligatured at both ends.
7. Where the detection and estimation of ALCOHOL is required post mortem a small specimen of brain removed aseptically, transferred to a small sterile stoppered bottle (e.g. bijou), chilled and despatched to the laboratory without delay gives the most reliable alcohol level. If delay in arrival at the laboratory is expected to exceed 24hrs, 1:00 aqueous solution of mercuric chloride (corrosive sublimate) may be used as a preservative (rectified spirit or formalin must not be used). Alternatively blood from a limb almost completely filling a small airtight-stoppered bottle may be chilled and sent to the laboratory.
8. In exhumations the following additional specimens should be sent: portions of the earth above, level with and below the body, a portion of the wrappings or coffin and in the case suspected mineral poisoning a femur, and specimens of nails and hair.

PACKING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Exhibits must be labelled with an identifying number (e.g. Masaka DEF/149/60 Exhibit No.3).
2. Exhibits should be carefully examined before being packed and any stains found should be neatly marked by drawing a circle 1/2in. away from the edge of the stain with a piece of sharply pointed chalk. Each separate stain should be given an identifying letter "A", "B", "C", etc and its location described on the exhibit list for the guidance of the examiner especially in regard to his evidence in court.
3. Each article must be packed carefully in a separate cover, which is sealed with a seal readily identifiable by both the sending officer and the receiving officer.
4. Viscera will be enclosed in sealed wide mouthed glass-stoppered glass jars containing spirit and enclosed in boxes for transport. When required the jar or jars are to be handed to the medical officer by the police officer both of whom will satisfy themselves that the boxes are duly sealed.
5. Samples of viscera taken by the medical officer conducting the post-mortem examination should be placed in the jars which should not be filled more than two thirds full, or they may burst owing to pressure generated by the evolution of the gases due to putrefaction.
6. The stoppers of the jars should be tied down with white cloth or strong paper, placed in sealed boxes and handed over to the police officer who will be responsible for their transport to the Government Analyst.
7. Sealing wax must not be applied to the junction of the stopper and mouth of the jars, but the outside of the box in which the jars are packed should be tied with tape or string stretching across from lid to box and sealed at both ends.
8. On being handed the jars the analyst will, in the presence of a witness, satisfy himself that the seal on the box containing them is intact and give a formal receipt to the person from whom he receives the jars.
9. On the completion of the chemical investigation, the analyst will arrange for the cleaning, refilling and replacing of the jars in sealed boxes and for their return to the police. When required again they will be dealt with as per Para. 4.