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CORONERS ACT

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CHAPTER 4:03

CORONERS ACT

1929 Ed.
c. 8
1953 Ed.
c. 13

An Act to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Coroners.

6 of 1887

[11TH MAY, 1887]

1. This Act may be cited as the Coroners Act.

Short title.

2. In this Act—

Interpretation.

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Coroners

“unnatural death” includes every case of death of a person--

(a) which occurs in a sudden, violent, or unnatural manner;
or

(b) where a dead body is found; or

(c) as to which any reasonable suspicion exists

(i) that it has not arisen from natural causes; or

(ii) that any person is criminally responsible for it;

“inquest” means an investigation as to the cause of a death held by a coroner with a jury as hereinafter provided;

“inquiry” means investigation held by a coroner without a jury;

“coroner” means the magistrate of the magisterial district in which an unnatural death occurs, or, if that magistrate cannot conveniently or speedily be found, or is unable to act the nearest justice of the peace who is able to act.

CORONERS

Justice to be
coroner.

3. Every justice of the peace shall be *ex officio* a coroner.

PROCEDURE IN CASE OF UNNATURAL DEATH

Report of
unnatural
death.

4. Everyone who becomes aware of an unnatural death shall notify it to the coroner or at the nearest police station.

Duty of police.

5. Where an unnatural death is reported to, or comes to the knowledge of, any member of the Police Force, he shall forthwith cause a report thereof to be made to the coroner.

Duty of
coroner.

6. Where an unnatural death is reported to or comes to the knowledge of the coroner, he shall, subject to the other provisions of this Act, forthwith cause due investigation to be made as to the cause of that death and, if necessary, hold an inquest, or, if the circumstances so require, shall hold an inquiry.

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7. Whenever it is expedient that the dead body of a person should be examined by a duly qualified medical practitioner, the coroner shall forthwith issue his order to a duly qualified medical practitioner to make a post mortem examination of that body.

Order for post mortem examination.

8. When from any cause the instructions of the coroner cannot be promptly obtained, and it is expedient that a person's dead body should be examined by a duly qualified medical practitioner without delay, the Commissioner of Police or any superintendent of police, or, if the instructions of any of those officers cannot be promptly obtained, the member of the Police Force in charge of the police station nearest to the place where the dead body is lying, may require a duly qualified medical practitioner to make a post mortem examination of the body.

Emergency cases.

9. (1) The medical practitioner who is so ordered or required to make the post mortem examination shall thereupon, unless he is unavoidably prevented, proceed to the place where the body is lying, and make such examination of it as may enable him to ascertain the cause of death.

Post mortem examination.

(2) The medical practitioner, if it is necessary in order to ascertain the cause of death, shall extend the examination to the dissection of the body and an analysis of any portion thereof, and may cause any portion thereof to be transmitted to any qualified government medical officer or to any government analytical chemist.

(3) Where a medical practitioner, so ordered or required to make a post mortem examination, is unavoidably prevented from so doing, he shall forthwith give notice of the fact to the coroner or at the nearest police station.

10. (1) The medical practitioner who makes the examination shall, after doing so, draw up a report of the appearances of the body and of the conclusions which he draws therefrom and certify as to the cause of death so far as he can ascertain it; and shall date and sign the report.

Report of examination.

(2) The report may be delivered to a member of the Police Force or to a rural constable for transmission to the coroner.

(3) The report so made shall be admissible as evidence at any inquest or inquiry, and shall be *prima facie* evidence of the facts therein stated.

No examination by any person charged with neglect.

11. Where any credible information is given to the coroner, or to any member of the Police Force authorised to require a post mortem examination to be made of the body of any person, that the death of that person was caused partly or entirely by the improper or negligent treatment of any medical practitioner or other person, that medical practitioner or other person shall not be allowed to perform or assist at the post mortem examination of the body.

ORDER FOR BURIAL OF BODY

Order on preliminary investigation.

12. (1) Where the death of any person is reported to, or first comes to the knowledge of, the coroner as an unnatural death, he may make a preliminary investigation, and if he considers after doing so that it is unnecessary to hold an inquest or an inquiry, he may issue an order for the burial of the body.

(2) The order may be issued either before or after any examination of the body by a qualified medical practitioner.

(3) Whenever the coroner issues an order for the burial of the body without holding an inquest or inquiry, he shall report the facts to the Director of Public Prosecutions and the grounds for the order and transmit all reports and documents in his possession connected with the matter.

Order when inquest or inquiry to be held.

13. (1) When an inquest or inquiry is to be held, and the coroner considers that it is unnecessary to order a post mortem examination of the body, he may authorise the burial of the body without that examination.

(2) Where an inquest or inquiry is to be held and the coroner considers it expedient to order a post mortem examination of the body, he may authorise the burial of the body after that examination has been duly made by a qualified medical practitioner.

(3) Where from any cause the instructions of the coroner cannot be promptly obtained, the Commissioner of Police or any superintendent of police, or, if the instructions of any of those officers cannot be promptly obtained, then the member of the police force in charge of the police station nearest to the place where the dead body is lying, may authorise the burial of the body after a post mortem examination thereof has been duly made under this Act by a duly qualified medical practitioner.

(4) The authorisation shall be immediately reported to the coroner.

(5) Except in case of necessity the order for burial under this section shall not be made until the coroner's jury in the case of an inquest, or the coroner in the case of an inquiry, has had an opportunity of determining whether it is expedient to view the body:

Provided that where the condition of the body requires that it should be immediately buried, an order or authorisation for burial under this section may be given before the commencement of any inquest or inquiry.

INQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

14. Where an unnatural death is reported to, or comes to the knowledge of, the coroner, he shall, subject to section 12, hold an inquest, except when he is authorised or required under this or any other Act to hold an inquiry, and then he shall hold an inquiry.

Inquest or inquiry.

15. (1) An inquest shall be held in every case of the death of any person confined in any prison, or in any lock-up, or place of confinement for persons accused or convicted of having committed any offence except in cases where it is not practicable to obtain the services of a sufficient number of jurors.

Inquest on body of prisoner.

(2) No person connected with the prison service or with the Police Force shall be summoned to serve as a juror on the inquest.

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(3) Where the services of a sufficient number of jurors cannot be obtained, the magistrate of the district in which the prison, lock-up, or place of confinement is situate shall forthwith hold an inquiry as to the cause of the death.

Inquiry into unnatural death of immigrant on plantation.

16. (1) Where the death of any immigrant is an unnatural death within the meaning of this Act, and occurs on any plantation, the magistrate of the district in which the plantation is situated shall forthwith hold an inquiry.

(2) In this section, the terms “immigrant” and “plantation” have respectively the same meaning as in any Act or Acts for the time being in force in relation to immigrants.

Where coroner unable to act.

17. Where under this Act, the magistrate of the district is directed to hold an inquiry but is unable to hold it, it shall be held by some other magistrate.

Inquiry where body cannot be found.

18. In cases where persons come to their deaths, or are reasonably supposed to be dead, but their bodies cannot be found, a coroner may, and whenever required by the Director of Public Prosecutions shall, hold an inquiry into the circumstances connected with the death or supposed death.

Requisition by Director of Public Prosecutions that inquest or inquiry be held.

19. (1) The Director of Public Prosecutions may require a coroner to hold an inquest or inquiry into the cause of, and the circumstances connected with, the death of any person, and may do so although an inquest or inquiry with respect to the same death has been already commenced or held or returned; and every coroner so required shall have full power to hold, and shall hold that inquest or inquiry.

(2) Where the Director of Public Prosecutions requires any coroner to hold an inquest or inquiry and an inquest or inquiry relating to the same death is being held, or has been held, by any other coroner, all proceedings at or founded on the last-mentioned inquest or inquiry shall be stayed.

(3) The Director of Public Prosecutions may also direct whether the body shall or shall not be exhumed, and the coroner shall comply with the direction.

20. Where the coroner has closed the proceedings at an inquest or inquiry, and it appears to the Director of Public Prosecutions that further investigation is necessary, he may require the coroner to re-open that inquest or inquiry and make further investigation, and thereupon the coroner shall have full power to re-open it and make further investigation, and thereafter proceed in the same manner as if he had not closed those proceedings:

Direction by Director of Public Prosecutions for further investigation.

Provided that this section shall not apply to any inquest or inquiry at which any verdict or finding of murder or manslaughter has been returned against any person therein named.

21. (1) In this section “the criminal proceedings” means the proceedings before a magistrate holding a preliminary inquiry and before any court to which the accused person is committed for trial, or before which a question of law reserved for consideration at the trial by a judge of the High Court is heard.

Meaning of “the criminal proceedings”.

(2) Where the coroner whose duty it is to hold an inquest touching a death is informed prior to the commencement of the inquest that some person has been charged before a magistrate with the murder or manslaughter of the deceased, he shall, unless directed in writing to the contrary by the Director of Public Prosecution, abstain from holding an inquest.

When coroner shall not hold an inquest.

(3) If on an inquest touching a death the coroner is informed before the jury have given their verdict that some person is charged before a magistrate with the murder or manslaughter of the deceased, he shall adjourn the inquest until after the conclusion of the criminal proceedings and discharge the jury, but he shall not resume the inquest unless he is so directed in writing by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

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Proceedings before coroner where Director of Public Prosecutions directs inquest to be held or resumed.

(4) Where by direction of the Director of Public Prosecutions a coroner holds or resumes an inquest if on the criminal proceedings any person has been charged on indictment, then upon the inquest no inquisition shall charge that person with an offence of which he could have been convicted on an indictment or contain any finding which is inconsistent with the determination of any matter by the result of those proceedings.

(5) Where a coroner resumes an inquest under this section he shall proceed in all respects as if the inquest had not been previously begun, and this Act shall apply as if the resumed inquest were a fresh inquest.

Particulars to be furnished for registration of death where inquest not resumed.

(6) If the inquest is not resumed, the coroner shall furnish to the registrar of births and deaths a certificate stating the result of the criminal proceedings and the particulars necessary for the registration of the death so far as they have been ascertained at the inquest, and the registrar shall enter the death and particulars in the form and manner prescribed by the Acts relating to the registration of births and deaths and any regulations made thereunder.

Certain officers to inform the coroner of proceedings.

(7) The magistrate before whom a person is charged with murder or manslaughter shall inform the coroner responsible for holding an inquest upon the body of the making of the charge and of the committal for trial or discharge, as the case may be, of the person charged with murder or manslaughter is committed for trial, it shall be the duty of the Registrar of the Supreme Court to inform the coroner of the result of the proceedings.

PROCEDURE WITH RESPECT TO INQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

Summoning jurors.

22. (1) Where an inquest is to be held, the coroner shall with all convenient speed summon not less than three or more than five good and lawful men residing in the neighbourhood, of full age to appear before him as jurors at the time and place he directs.

(2) The summons may be served either personally or by leaving it with some person at his abode, or may be communicated by a member of the Police Force in any manner authorised by this Act.

(3) Where it is practicable to do so, the place so appointed shall be the place where it then is, unless the body has been buried.

23. So soon as the coroner and jurors at an inquest have assembled, the coroner shall administer to each of the jurors the following oath: Juror's oath.

“You shall diligently inquire and true presentment make, on behalf of the State, when, where, how, and after what manner [*here name the deceased, if known, or, if unknown, state a person unknown*] now dead, came to his death, and of such other matters relating to that death as shall be lawfully inquired of by you. So help you God.”

24. The coroner or any jury may view the body, but it shall not be necessary at any inquest or inquiry for the coroner or the jury to do so: View of body.

Provided that where at any inquest it appears to the coroner or to the greater number of the jury attending at the inquest to be expedient to view the body, the jury shall thereupon proceed to do so, and if the body has been buried, the coroner shall order its exhumation for the purpose, unless he certifies that, in his opinion, exhumation would be useless for the purposes of the inquest or dangerous to the public health.

25. The jurors at every inquest, and the coroner at every inquiry, shall inquire when, where, how, and after what manner, the deceased person came by his death, and also whether any person is criminally concerned in the cause of the death. Nature of investigation.

26. The coroner shall summon the witnesses he deems necessary and examine them upon oath touching the matter of the inquest or inquiry; and the evidence of a witness shall be taken down in writing by the coroner and distinctly read over to and subscribed by the witness in the presence of the coroner and jurors in the case of an inquest, and in the presence of the coroner in the case of an inquiry. Summoning and examining witnesses.

27. Where any person summoned as a witness at any inquest or inquiry refuses or neglects to appear at the time and place appointed by the summons and otherwise to comply therewith, and no just excuse is offered for his refusal or neglect, then, after proof upon oath that the Witness not attending.

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summons has been served upon him, either personally or by leaving it for him with some person at his place of abode, or has been communicated to him in any manner authorised by this Act, the coroner may issue a warrant to bring and have him at a time and place therein mentioned, before the coroner to testify as aforesaid.

Committal of
recalcitrant
witness.
Second
Schedule.
Form 4.

28. Where on the appearance of the person so summoned, either in obedience to the summons or on being brought by virtue of a warrant or where any person present is called on by the coroner to give evidence, then if that person—

- (a) refuses to be examined upon oath concerning the premises; or
- (b) refuses to be sworn, or, having been sworn, refuses to answer the questions concerning the premises then put to him; or
- (c) refuses to produce any document which he is summoned to produce; or
- (d) refuses to subscribe his deposition,

the coroner may, by warrant, commit the person so refusing to any prison for any time not exceeding seven days, unless he in the meantime consents to be examined and to answer concerning the premises, or to produce the documents (if any), or to subscribe his deposition, as the case may be.

Right of
accused person
to be present.

29. Everyone charged with having caused the death of the deceased, or with having been accessory thereto, shall be at liberty to attend and cross-examine each witness produced against him, as well as to produce witnesses in his defence; and every witness produced for the defence shall be sworn, and his examination shall be taken down by the coroner in manner and form hereinbefore mentioned.

Rights of
accused person
to examine
medical
practitioner
who makes
report.

30. Where, at any inquest or inquiry, the report of any medical practitioner who has made a post mortem examination of the body of a person is received in evidence, and anyone charged with having caused the death of that person, or with having been accessory thereto,

desires to examine the medical practitioner, he may require the coroner to summon the practitioner, and the coroner, when so required, shall thereupon summon the practitioner as a witness for the State.

31. Where it appears to the greater number of the jurors sitting at any coroner's inquest that the cause of death has not been satisfactorily explained by the evidence of the medical practitioner or other witness or witnesses examined in the first instance, that number of the jurors are hereby empowered to name to the coroner, in writing, any other legally qualified medical practitioner or practitioners, and to require the coroner to issue his order for the attendance of the last-mentioned medical practitioner or practitioners as a witness or witnesses, and for the performance of a post mortem examination, with or without an analysis of the contents of the stomach or intestines, and whether or not that examination has already been performed or not; and if the coroner, having been thereunto required, refuses to issue the order, he shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanour.

Requisition by majority of jurors for further post mortem examination.

32. Where, at any inquest or inquiry, it appears to the coroner that the cause of death has not been satisfactorily explained, he may require any qualified medical practitioner to make a post mortem examination, with or without an analysis of any portion of the body, and whether or not that examination has already been performed.

The like by coroner.

33. (1) After the evidence on behalf of the State is closed, the coroner, if any accused person is present, shall say to him these words, or words to the like effect:

Statement of accused person.
[26 of 1949]

“Do you wish to say anything? You are not obliged to say anything unless you desire to do so; but whatever you say will be taken down in writing and may be given in evidence upon your trial.”

(2) Whatever the accused person then says shall be taken down in writing and read over to him by the coroner and kept with the depositions of the witnesses, and transmitted with them as hereinafter mentioned; and afterwards, upon the trial of the accused person, the statement may if necessary be given in evidence against him without further proof thereof, unless it is proved that the coroner purporting to sign it did not in fact sign it:

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Provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the Director of Public Prosecutions in any case from giving in evidence an admission or confession or other statement of the person accused or charged made at any time which by law would be admissible as evidence against that person.

Verdict or finding of jury.

34. (1) After the whole of the evidence is closed and the statement of the accused person (if any) has been taken down, the coroner at an inquest shall sum up the evidence and then proceed to take the verdict of the jury, the finding of the majority being for that purpose sufficient, and the verdict shall thereupon be reduced into writing and authenticated by the signature or mark of the jurors finding it and countersigned by the coroner.

(2) The coroner at an inquiry shall record in writing his finding on the evidence, and that finding shall have the same effect as if it were the verdict of a jury.

Adjournments.

35. Any inquest or inquiry may be adjourned by the coroner, if he sees fit, from place to place and from time to time until the whole of the evidence touching and concerning the death and the cause thereof has been obtained.

Transmission of proceedings to Director of Public Prosecutions.

36. All inquisitions and records and minutes of proceedings at any inquiry shall be transmitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions within seven days at the latest after the inquest or inquiry is closed.

EXHUMATION OF BODY

Exhumation of dead body.

37. Where the body of any person is buried without any examination or without sufficient examination, a coroner about to hold or holding an inquest or inquiry as to the death of that person may order the body to be exhumed.

OFFENCES

38. Every coroner who refuses or neglects without reasonable excuse to hold any inquest or inquiry which it is his duty to hold, or to perform any duty which he is required to perform under this Act, shall be liable to a fine of forty-eight thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars, recoverable before the High Court in its criminal jurisdiction on the motion of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Neglect of duty by coroner.
[6 of 1997]

39. Everyone becoming aware of any unnatural death who neglects to notify it to the coroner or at the nearest police station shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of nine thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars.

Not reporting unnatural death.
[6 of 1997]

40. Everyone who—

- (a) being summoned as a juror at any inquest, refuses or neglects to attend; or
- (b) being in attendance on an inquest, refuses to be sworn or to serve as a juror; or
- (c) being called to complete the number of jurors, refuses to be sworn or to serve as a juror,

Refusal or neglect of juror to perform duty.
[6 of 1997]

shall, unless he proves to the satisfaction of the magistrate that he had good and sufficient cause for his refusal or neglect, be liable on summary conviction to a fine of four thousand eight hundred and seventy-five dollars.

41. Where any medical practitioner is ordered or required to make any post mortem examination of a body, and the order or requirement has been personally served on or left at the residence of the practitioner, or has been communicated to him in any manner authorised by this Act in sufficient time to enable him to comply therewith and he fails to comply therewith, he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of nine thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars, unless he proves to the satisfaction of the magistrate that he had good and sufficient cause for the non-compliance and that he forthwith gave notice to the coroner, or at the nearest police station, that he was so unable to comply with the order or requirement.

Non-compliance by medical practitioner with summons.
[6 of 1997]

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Coroners

Burial of body
without
authority.
[6 of 1997]

42. (1) Everyone who without lawful excuse interrs or causes to be interred the dead body of any person in respect to whose death an inquest or inquiry ought to be held before he has received the order of the coroner, or before he is authorised to do so by any member of the Police Force empowered under this Act to give that authority, shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of nineteen thousand five hundred dollars.

Onus of proof.

(2) Where anyone is charged with having committed an offence under this section, the onus of proving that he had lawful excuse, or that he received the order of the coroner, or that he was so empowered as aforesaid, shall be on him.

Obstruction of
person acting
under the Act.
[6 of 1997]

43. Everyone who obstructs or molests any officer or person acting under this Act shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of nine thousand seven hundred and fifty dollars or to imprisonment for three months.

FEES

Fee for post
mortem
examination.

44. Where any qualified medical practitioner has made an examination of the dead body of any person in obedience to any order or requirement under this Act, he shall, subject to the other provisions of this Act, be entitled to receive the prescribed fee, and the coroner, when the service has been performed, shall certify for payment the account of the medical practitioner:

Provided that where any inquest or inquiry is held with respect to the death of any person who has died in any hospital, prison, almshouse, or other institution, the medical officer whose duty it has been to attend the deceased person as a medical officer of that institution shall not be entitled to the fee or remuneration herein provided.

Fees.
[4 of 1972]

45. (1) There shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament in respect of coroners' inquests and other matters and things connected therewith the fees specified in the First Schedule.

(2) The Minister may by order amend the First Schedule.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

46. If, on the trial of anyone against whom a verdict or finding of murder or manslaughter has been returned at any inquest or inquiry, it is proved by the oath of any credible witness that any person whose deposition has been taken at the inquest or inquiry is dead, or absent from Guyana, or so ill as not to be able to travel, then, if the deposition purports to be signed by the coroner before whom it purports to have been taken, the deposition may be read as evidence without any further proof thereof, unless it is proved that it was not in fact signed by the coroner purporting to sign it.

Admissibility of deposition on trial.

47. Where, on the trial of anyone on an indictment for murder or manslaughter, it is proved that the medical practitioner who made a post mortem examination of the body is dead or absent from Guyana, any report of that practitioner made under this Act may be received as evidence with respect to the appearances of the body when examined by him and as regards the cause of death:

Admissibility of medical report in certain cases.

Provided that the evidence shall be subject to any deduction from its weight the court or jury deems proper by reason of the report not having been made upon oath and the accused not having had any opportunity of cross-examination.

48. Any order, authorisation, or summons under this Act may be communicated verbally or by telegraph, telephone, or any electrical apparatus.

Intimation of order or summons.

49. In all questions of form and practice which may arise on any coroner's inquest not herein provided for, the coroner shall follow, as nearly as possible, the forms and practice in force immediately before 26th May, 1966.

Practice in matters not provided for.

50. All correspondence, papers and documents transmitted by or to the Director of Public Prosecutions, or by or to a coroner, relating to any matter to be dealt with under this Act may be transmitted through the post free of charge.

Postage of correspondence.

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Record of proceedings.

51. (1) The Director of Public Prosecutions may deposit in the registry of the Supreme Court all inquisitions and records of proceedings at an inquiry.

(2) The Registrar shall cause a register to be kept of all the documents so deposited and an alphabetical index of them to be made.

Investigation into death of immigrant.

52. Where any inquest or inquiry is held as to the death of any Asiatic immigrant, the coroner shall transmit to the Immigration Agent General the name and description of the immigrant and the date and cause of his death.

Forms.

53. (1) The Director of Public Prosecutions may direct what forms shall be used in any proceedings under this Act, and those forms, when sanctioned by the Minister and published in the Gazette, may be used for and in respect of the several matters therein mentioned.

Second Schedule.

(2) Until otherwise ordered, the several forms in the Second Schedule may be used for and in respect of the several matters therein mentioned.

FIRST SCHEDULE

TABLE OF FEES

s. 45
[Leg. Co.
Res. No. XII
6/12/1929]
[6 of 1997]

1. To every coroner (not being in the receipt of any public pay or emolument) holding and completing any inquest or enquiry and thereafter duly transmitting the record of the proceedings in terms of the Act \$ 325.00

2. To every qualified medical practitioner who is in receipt of any salary or remuneration from the public revenues, for making an examination of the dead body of the deceased person, where it is not necessary to make any dissection of the body, making the report required by the Act, and certifying the cause of death 130.00

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	\$
3. To every such practitioner, where it is necessary in any such case to attend to give evidence, an additional sum of ...	195.00
4. To every qualified medical practitioner who is in receipt of any salary or remuneration from the public revenues, for making a complete <i>post mortem</i> examination of the dead body of the deceased person, including the dissection of the body, either with or without an analysis of the contents of the stomach and intestines or preparing them for transmission to the Government Analyst, making the report required by the Act, and certifying the cause of death	390.00
5. To every such practitioner, where it is necessary in any such case to attend to give evidence, an additional sum of ...	260.00
6. To every qualified medical practitioner who is not in receipt of any salary or remuneration from the public revenues, for making an examination of the dead body of a deceased person, where it is not necessary to make any dissection of the body, making the report required by the Act, and certifying the cause of death	195.00
7. To every such practitioner, where it is necessary in any such case to attend to give evidence, an additional sum of ...	260.00
8. To every qualified medical practitioner who is not in the receipt of any salary or remuneration from the public revenues, for making a complete post mortem examination of the dead body of the deceased person, including the dissection of the body, either with or without an analysis of the contents of the stomach and intestines or preparing them for transmission to the Government Analyst, making the report required by the Act, and certifying the cause of death.....	520.00
9. To every such practitioner, where it is necessary in any such case to attend to give evidence, an additional sum of ...	455.00

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N.B.—No mileage or travelling expenses to be allowed, but in special cases it shall be lawful for the Minister responsible for finance to order the payment of such extra remuneration for travelling expenses, or otherwise, as he may deem just and reasonable.

SECOND SCHEDULE

s. 53

FORMS

1

s. 22

WRITTEN SUMMONS FOR A JUROR

Guyana
County of

To.....of.....

These are to require you to be and appear before me, the undersigned, a coroner of the State, at on the day of 19 , ato'clock, m., then and there to serve as a juror at a coroner's inquest to be holden before me touching the cause of death of [*here state the name of the deceased person, or, if unknown, state "a person unknown"*] there lying dead.

Dated this day of19 ...

(Signed).....
Coroner
..... Magisterial District

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2

s. 26

WRITTEN SUMMONS FOR A WITNESS

Guyana

County of

To of

These are to require you to be and appear before me, the undersigned, a coroner of the State, at on the day of19..., ato'clock m., then and there to give evidence touching the cause of death of

Dated this day of..... 19....

(Signed).....
Coroner
..... Magisterial District

3

s. 27

WARRANT OF COMMITMENT OF A WITNESS FOR REFUSING TO ATTEND

Guyana

County of.....

To all Members of the Police Force and Constables of Guyana.

Whereas I, the undersigned, a coroner of the State, did duly issue my summons to.....requiring him to be and appear before me at.....on the.....day of.....19....., at.....o'clockm., then and there to give evidence touching the cause of death of.....: And whereas proof has this day been made before me upon oath of that summons having been duly intimated to the said.....: And whereas the said has neglected to appear at the time and place appointed by the summons, and no just excuse has been offered for the neglect—This is, therefore, by virtue of my office, to command

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you and each of you to bring and have the saidbefore me aton the.....day of19..., at.....o'clock m., to give evidence as foresaid.

Dated this..... day of19

(Signed).....

Coroner

..... Magisterial District

s. 28

WARRANT OF COMMITMENT OF A WITNESS FOR REFUSING TO GIVE EVIDENCE

Guyana

County of

To all Members of the Police Force and Constables of Guyana and to.....the Keeper of the Prison at.....

Whereas I, the undersigned, a coroner of the State, did duly issue my summons torequiring him to be and appear before me aton the..... day of 19....., ato'clock m., then and there to give evidence touching the cause of death of: And whereas the said..... now appearing before me [or being brought before me by virtue of a warrant in that behalf to testify as aforesaid] and being required to make oath as a witness in that behalf, has now refused to do so [or being duly sworn as a witness, does now refuse to answer certain questions concerning the premises which are here put to him, or does now refuse to subscribe his deposition as a witness,] without any just excuse for that refusal— This is, therefore, by virtue of my office, to command you and each of you, the said members of the police force and constables, to take the said and him safely to convey to the prison at,and there deliver him to the said keeper thereof, with this precept; and I do hereby, by virtue of my office, require you, the said keeper, to receive the said into your custody in the said prison, and him there safely keep for the space of days

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for his said contempt, unless he shall in the meantime consent to be examined, and to answer concerning the premises [or duly subscribe his deposition as a witness]; and for so doing, this shall be your warrant.

Dated this day of 19....

(Signed).....

Coroner

.....Magisterial District

ORDER TO MEDICAL PRACTITIONER

Guyana

County of.....

To of Medical Practitioner [oror as the case may be].

By virtue of this my order, as a coroner of the State of Guyana, you are required to make [or assist in making] a post mortem examination of the body ofand report thereon to me as required by law.

Dated this day of 19

(Signed)

Coroner

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26

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Coroners

s. 34

6

INQUISITION

Guyana

County of

An inquisition taken at in the parish of, on theday of in the year of our Lord one thousand, nine hundred and before me, a coroner of the State, upon the oaths of [here name the jurors sworn], good and lawful men, who, being then and there duly sworn and charged to inquire for and on behalf of the State, when, where, how, and after what mannercame to h.....death, do, upon their oaths, say that [here state fully the finding of the jury].

In witness whereof, as well the said coroner as the jurors aforesaid have hereunto set their hands the day and year first above written.

A.C., Coroner
Magisterial District

A.B.)
C.D.)Jurors.
E.F.)
etc.)

N.B.— Where a juror puts a mark instead of signing his name, the coroner shall certify that the mark was made in his presence.

s. 12

7

WARRANT TO BURY A BODY WITHOUT INQUEST OR INQUIRY

Guyana

County of

To and to all whom it may concern.

Whereas I am credibly informed that on the..... day of19....., it came to his death at in the said county; And whereas, after making preliminary investigation, it has been made to

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Coroners

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appear to me that the said death was not an unnatural death within the meaning of the Coroners Act—This is, therefore, to certify that you may lawfully permit the body of the said to be buried; and for so doing, this shall be your warrant.

Dated this day of 19...

(Signed).....

Coroner

.....Magisterial District

8

s. 13

WARRANT TO BURY A BODY
AFTER EXHUMATION

Guyana

County of

To and to all whom it may concern.

Whereas due examination by a duly qualified medical practitioner has been made by the body of who now lies dead at in the county of- This is, therefore, to certify that you may lawfully permit the body of the said to be buried; and for so doing, this shall be your warrant.

Dated this day of 19...

(Signed).....

Coroner

.....Magisterial District

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S. 37

9

WARRANT TO EXHUME A BODY

Guyana

County of

To and to all Members of the Police Force and Constables of Guyana.

Whereas the body of one was buried on the day of 19....., at in the said county; And whereas it is necessary that the said body should be exhumed, and full investigation made as to the cause of the death of the said in manner required by law— This is, therefore, by virtue of my office, to charge and command you, and each of you, that you forthwith cause the body of the said to be taken up and safely conveyed to in the said county, in order that due investigation may be made as to the cause of death, and that I may proceed therein according to law: Hereof fail not, as you will answer the contrary at your peril.

Dated this day of 19....

(Signed).....

Coroner

.....Magisterial District
