

Post-Mortem is an age old practice. The procedure to be adopted in conducting Post-Mortem examination has been outlined in the text books on Medical Jurisprudence and Orissa Police Manual Rules, Vol.I. Taking into account the recent technological advances, it was felt necessary to review the current procedure adopted to conduct Post-Mortem examination. The State Government after careful consideration, set up a Committee under the Chairmanship of Special Secretary to Government, Health & F.W. Department, with representatives of Law Department, Home Department and experts in the field vide Health & Family Welfare Department Order No.1163/M dated 16.1.2006 to examine the issue and submit report.

The Committee after holding several sittings and threadbare discussions, submitted its report on 16.2.2006.

Government, after careful consideration and in consultation with Home Department, have accepted the recommendations of the committee and order as follows.

1. Post Mortem should be conducted within 24 (twenty four) hours of death of a person.
2. Still and Video Photographs of unidentified deadbodies shall be taken by Police before commencement of Post-Mortem examinations.
3. Severing or chopping off any limb of deadbodies during the post-Mortem examination is strictly prohibited.
4. In case of an un-identified deadbody, in normal cases the police shall take finger prints for identification, but in such cases where the deadbody is in a high state of decomposition or the skin is so contracted and wrinkled that decipherable prints cannot be taken and that too in case of suspected criminals a requisition shall be placed by the Inquiring Officer with the Doctor concerned to remove the skin of the bulbs of fingers. When such a requisition is filed by a Police Officer, the Doctor conducting the Post Mortem Examination shall only remove the skins of the bulbs of fingers. Fingers as a whole shall not be severed under any circumstances.