

POLICE CIRCULAR ORDER NO. 156

It is seen that in a small percentage of cases unnatural death the dead body is sent for post-mortem examination by the Police in this State. Although Police Officers, authorised to hold enquiry into cases of unnatural death have the power u/s 174, Cr.P.C., to dispose of the dead body on being satisfied; after necessary external examination and local enquiry, that there was no foul play, it is quite possible that the external physical signs might not betray the real causes of death in several circumstances, particularly in cases of death by poisoning and other esoteric methods and disposal of the dead body in such cases would leave the homicidal death to go undetected.

Post-Mortem
of dead body
to U.S.
Cases

In order to ensure that no case of homicide death should go undetected, it is necessary that the Police should send the dead body for post-mortem examination in all cases in which there is even a negligible/slightest doubt as to the cause of death.

It is, therefore, ordered that the dead body should be sent for post-mortem examination in all cases of unnatural death, in which, there is no infallible proof that the death is due to purely natural causes.

(Previous Police Circular Order No. 7 of 1962)