

General Circular No :01-05/2003



My No.DDG(MS)29/2003
Department of Health Services,
385, "Suwasiripaya"
Baddegama Wimalawansa Mawatha,
Colombo 10.
27th March, 2003.

All Provincial Secretaries of Health Services,
All Provincial Directors of Health Services,
All Heads of Decentralised Units,
Specialised Campaigns,
Directors of Teaching Hospitals and
Heads of Institutions of the Ministry of Health.

Regarding Medico Legal Work

01. It has been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Health that there is undue delay in submitting Medico-Legal Examination Forms to Police and Medico-Legal Reports (MLR, PMR) to Courts by the Government Medical Officers. This has contributed to delay in hearing the cases filed in Courts.

Therefore the Medical Officers (Consultant J. M.OO., A.J.M.OO., M.O.(Medico-Legal), DMD and all other Medical Officers engaged in Medico-Legal Work) are hereby instructed to :

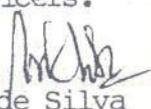
- 1.1 Submit duly completed Police-copy of the Medico-Legal Examination Form (GHT), immediately after the conclusion of the Medico-Legal Examination.
- 1.2 On completion of the Post-mortem Examination, a Preliminary Report stating the cause of death/probable cause of death and /or any other relevant findings and opinion to be submitted to the Magistrate/Inquirer into deaths. Thereafter the full report of the post-mortem examination to be submitted to the Courts without waiting for further summons from Courts. To facilitate this, the Police Department has agreed to provide the relevant case number, to the Medical Officers concerned. The Medical Officers should indicate the case numbers when

(more)

submitting such reports. For the purpose of effective and efficient implementation of criminal investigation procedure it was decided to have a multidisciplinary approach in such investigations. Medical Officer is an important member of this team. Hence, whenever a request is made by the Magistrate/Inquirer -into-death/police, the Medical Officer on duty should assist by visiting the scene etc. immediately.

02. It has been brought to the notice of the Ministry of Health that the Hospital Staff at times are reluctant to provide facilities and other supportive services to the Judicial Medical Officers in the Management of Medico-Legal Cases (Clinical as well as Post-mortem). This is to inform the Head of Institutions that it is the responsibility of the Institutions to provide such facilities and services, whenever a request is made by the J.M.O./A.J.M.O./M.O. (Medical-Legal)

The Heads of Decentralised Units and other Institutions are requested to bring the contents of this Circular to all relevant Medical Officers.


Dr.S.T.G.R.de Silva
D.D.G.(MS) I

Sgd/Dr.Athula Kahandaliyanage
Director General of Health Services

- cc: 1. Secretary, Medico Legal Society) f.i.
- 2. I.G.P. Police Head Quarters)