

**Important**  
**DOCUMENTS for DOCTORS**

## **1. Consent Form**

- Must be procedure-specific.
- Risks explained in simple language.
- Signed by patient/attendant + doctor.

## **2. Case Sheet**

- Chronological entries.
- Time-stamped notes.
- Clinical reasoning documented.

## **3. Referral Note:**

- Reason for referral clearly mentioned.
- Patient condition at time of transfer.
- Stabilization steps recorded.

#### **4. Discharge Summary**

- Diagnosis + treatment given
- Advice + warning signs.
- Follow-up instructions.

#### **5. MLC Intimation**

- Timely police intimation.
- Proper documentation of injuries.
- Avoid delay in medico-legal cases.

# Bad Documentation Creates - Good Lawyers

- Incomplete notes
- Overwriting
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**Your Bad Documentation makes you  
'Legally vulnerable'**

- Injuries.
- Undocumented consent.
- Missing Chain of custody.

*“a Good paperwork – by you  
is your  
**Strongest**  
Legal defence.”*

# **Things to Remember - POLICE**

## 1. Late Referral

- leads to loss of Evidence
- Important in:
  - Sexual assault.
  - Poisoning.
  - Drunken driving.
  - Assault cases.

## 2. Sending Patients Without Proper Requisition.

- No details of incident.
- No questions asked to doctor.
- Creates confusion.

## • 3. Interfering with Medical Opinion

- Pressuring doctors:
  - “Write grievous”
  - “Mention attempt to murder”
  - “Make it stronger”

#### **4. Poor Preservation Evidence**

- Wet clothes packed in plastic.
- Unsealed samples.
- Improper storage.
- Evidence contamination = weak case.

#### **5. Incomplete Inquest**

- Missing observations
- No scene correlation
- Copy-paste inquest reports

#### **6. Failure to Maintain Chain of Custody.**

- No documentation of transfer.
- No signatures.
- Unknown handlers.

#### **7. Delay in Sending Samples to FSL.**

- Blood decomposes
- Viscera spoils
- DNA degrades

## **8. Not Photographing the Scene Properly.**

- Missing angles
- No scale/reference
- Scene disturbed early

## **9. Poor Coordination with Doctors**

- Mentality Conflict instead of teamwork
- (Medico-legal cases require cooperation)

## **10. Assuming Medical Findings Must Match FIR**

- FIR = allegation
- Medical findings = scientific evidence
- Both may differ.

# **Things to Remember - Judiciary**

## 1. Overdependence on Medical Opinion Alone

- Medical evidence supports investigation.
- It does not replace judicial reasoning

## 2. Misunderstanding “Cause of Death” vs “Manner of Death”

### Example:

- Cause = I.C.H
- Manner- Accidental, Suicidal, Natural
- This confusion is very common.

- **3. Ignoring Limitations of Medical Science**

**Doctors may say:**

- **“cannot determine”**
- **“probable”**
- **“reserved opinion”**
- **That does not mean incompetence.**

- **4. Expecting 100% Certainty in Every Case**

- **Medicine often works on probability and scientific interpretation.**

## **5. Delayed Orders in Sensitive Cases**

- Exhumation
- Preservation orders
- DNA collection
- Postmortem permissions
- Delay can destroy evidence.

## **6. Not Understanding Time Sensitivity**

- Biological evidence disappears rapidly.

## 7. Overlooking Documentation Gaps

- A weakly documented case may collapse despite genuine facts.

## 8. Misinterpretation of Medical Terminology

### Terms like:

- Shock,
  - Coma,
  - Grievous injury,
  - Intoxication,
- ...may be misunderstood legally.

## 9. Failure to Coordinate Multi-Agency Response.

- Doctors + Police + FSL + Judiciary must function together.
- Medico-legal work is a chain.

## 10. Not Asking Clarificatory Questions.

**Courts should feel free to seek:**

- Supplementary opinions.
- Expert clarification.
- Re-examination when needed.

# **10 things to Remember - Doctors**

# Top 10 Mistakes

## 1. Delaying Emergency Treatment due to Police Formalities

- Waiting for FIR, police arrival, or relatives before treatment.

## 2. Poor Documentation

- Incomplete history
- No timing mentioned
- No signature
- Illegible handwriting

### **Golden Rule:**

“If it is not documented, it is considered not done.”

### **3. Failure to Register MLC**

Assault, poisoning, burns, accidents, sexual assault cases ignored

Later becomes a legal complication

### **4. Giving Opinion Without Adequate Evidence**

- Declaring “attempt to murder”
- Saying “rape confirmed”
- Giving legal conclusions instead of medical findings

## **5. Incorrect Injury Description**

Writing “simple injury” without details.

Missing Size, Shape,  
Location, Age of  
injury

## **6. Breaking Chain of Custody**

- Samples not sealed properly
- No labels/signatures
- Evidence handed casually
- This can destroy an entire case.

## **7. Talking Carelessly to Media or Public**

Sharing patient details.

Discussing sensitive cases openly.

Violating confidentiality.

## **8. Altering Records Later**

- Overwriting notes.
- Backdated entries.

## **9. Failure to Explain Risks & Obtain Consent**

Especially in surgeries/high-risk procedures “Verbal consent” later becomes disputed

## **10. Poor Communication with Relatives**

- Many **violence incidents** start from:
  - Anger,
  - Misunderstanding,
  - Lack of updates,
  - Insensitive behaviour

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# **Forensic Medicine Speaks**

## **Even When the Victim Cannot**

- **A dead body speaks.**
- **Blood speaks.**
- **Injuries speak**

**Role of Forensic Medicine is to help others understand that language.**

- **Poison speaks.**

**Courtroom Survival**  
**[for Doctors /Police]**

# **Things to avoid in Court - Doctors**

- 1. Speaking beyond Expertise.**
- 2. Becoming defensive.**
- 3. Using overconfident language.**
- 4. Guessing answers.**
- 5. Arguing with lawyers.**
- 6. Poor Documentation.**

# **Things That Destroy a Case - Police**

- 1. Delay in seizure**
- 2. No chain of custody**
- 3. No scene photography**
- 4. Incomplete forwarding letter**
- 5. Vague witness statement**

End of Session - 2