

## CHAPTER 9

# Finger Impressions; Handwriting; Forged Stamps and Currency and Bank Notes

Part A  
DOCUMENTS AND PAPERS ON WHICH THUMB AND FINGER MARKS SHOULD BE  
AFFIXED

**1. Documents on which thumb impressions are to be affixed**—The Judges having considered the reports submitted from time to time on the working of the system of taking thumb and finger impressions on judicial records as a means of identification of individuals are pleased to direct that such impressions be affixed to the following documents and papers, *viz.*,—

- (1) Petitions;
- (2) Entries in Petition-writers' Registers;
- (3) Statements and confessions by accused persons;
- (4) Statements by persons against their own interests;
- (5) Compromises;
- (6) References to arbitration;

(7) Withdrawals of suits under Order XXIII, Rule 1, Civil Procedure Code, 1908, and of complaints under Section 248, Criminal Procedure Code;

- (8) Security bonds;
- (9) Receipts filed in Court.

**2. Appliances required and mode of taking impressions**—For taking thumb and finger impressions the following appliances are required:—

- (1) A tin slab;
- (2) Printer's ink;

(3) A rubber roller (to spread the ink).

A very small quantity of printer's ink should be poured on the slab and spread thereon with the rubber roller till it forms into a very thin film. The bulbs of the thumb and all the fingers of one hand after being carefully wiped should be laid lightly over the inky film and then impressed on the paper.

**3. Further directions**—The film once spread is sufficient for taking a large number of impressions at a time but should the ink become too thick a drop or two of common sweet oil may be added and rubbed over again with the rubber roller. The tin slab should be properly cleaned every day before the ink is poured on it.

**4. Appliances required for reading impressions**—For reading impressions the following appliances are required—

(1) A pointer;

(2) A reading glass;

(3) A pocket lens.

(2) and (3) need only be kept by District Judges and District Magistrates.

**5. Henry's treaties on impressions**—A Manual on the classification and uses of finger prints by Mr. E.R. Henry has been circulated to all Sessions Judges, District Magistrates and District Judges in the Punjab. It contains full instructions for taking impressions.

**6. Petition writers to obtain proper apparatus and apply proper impressions**—District Judges should make a point of seeing that Petition writers obtain proper apparatus and apply proper impressions to petitions and on their registers.

**7. Appellate Courts to see that these instructions are followed**—Appellate Courts are requested to see that a subordinate Courts comply with these instructions.

**8. Impressions should be affixed on a documents on a space not occupied by the stamp**—Persons responsible for affixing thumb and finger impressions on documents which bear receipt or Court-fee stamps should be careful to take such impressions on the actual document itself in a place where the paper is clean and free from writing or other marks, and not on the stamp.

Part

B

PHILLAUR FINGER PRINT BUREAU

**1. Examination Fees**—The following are the fees for the examination of impressions by Experts of the Finger Print Bureau, Phillaur:—

Rs. 16 for every reference and a further fee of Rs. 4 for each finger impression sent for examination when the total number so sent exceeds five. (*Punjab Government Letter No. 9076-Police, dated the 25th March, 1924*).

These fees shall be credited to Government in the local treasury under the head “XXIII—Police—Fees, Fines and Forfeiture”. The treasury receipt shall be sent with the exhibits to the Bureau and the fact mentioned in the letter forwarding the exhibits for expert opinion.

**2. Fees payable to the Police Finger Print Proficients**—As the work of taking thumb impressions in civil cases for transmission to Phillaur is not one of the regular duties of a Police officer, the Governor has been pleased to decide that Police Finger Print Proficients who are required to take such impressions shall be paid a fee of Re. 1 for each set of impressions taken and that such fee shall be paid by litigants themselves in addition to the other charges. (*Punjab Government Letter No. 2830-H.—Judl., dated the 27th January, 1927*)

*Note*—The fee of one rupee prescribed in this paragraph is for a complete set of plain and rolled prints of both hands of a person.

**3. Instructions re: evidence of a Phillaur expert**—The following instructions have been framed for the guidance of civil Courts when the evidence of a Bureau Expert is required:—

### **Instructions**

(i) *Evidence to be taken on commission through Sub-Judge, Phillaur*—When the evidence of a Bureau Expert is required in a civil case the Sub-Judge of Phillaur shall be appointed to be the Commissioner to record it.

(ii) *Documents may be sent in the first instance direct to the experts for examination and opinion*—Courts shall continue to send exhibits in civil cases direct in the first instance to the Bureau for examination and opinion by experts.

(iii) *Sub-Judge, Phillaur, to set apart a day each week for examination of Phillaur experts*—If party to a suit desire such opinion to be received in evidence, and expert of the Bureau staff shall be summoned to the Court of the Sub-Judge at Phillaur and examined on Commission on a day to be set apart each week for the hearing of evidence in such cases.

(iv) *Bureau shall decide the name of the expert deputed to be examined*—It shall be left to the Bureau to enter on the summons the name of the expert deputed to be examined.

(v) *Commissioners' fees*—The fee to be paid for the Commissioner's work shall vary with the value of the civil suit in connection with which the Commission is issued subject to a maximum of Rs. 20; for suits of small value a small fee shall be charged but the maximum fee shall be charged in suits of large value; the amount of the fee shall in each case be fixed by the Court issuing the Commission, and it shall all be credited to Government in the local treasury under the head “XXI—Administration of Justice—General Fees, Fines and Forfeitures—Other General Fees, Fines and Forfeitures”.

(vi) *Fees for the evidence of experts*—As regards the fee to be paid for the experts' scrutiny of finger impressions and for their examination in Court, the present fee for the scrutiny (plus written opinion) shall stand and an additional fee to be fixed by the Court issuing the Commission, subject to a maximum of Rs. 16, shall be levied for the attendance of the expert in Court, one-third of which shall be paid to the expert (being remitted by the Court issuing the Commission direct to the Sub-Judge at Phillaur who will make it over to the expert), and two-third credited by the Court into the local treasury under the head “XXIII—Police—Fees, Fines and Forfeitures”, the treasury receipt being forwarded with the commission to the Sub-Judge at Phillaur who will send it to the Bureau when summoning the expert.

*In respect of the Civil Courts at Delhi, the fee shall be remitted in cash by money order to the Superintendent of Police, Incharge Finger Print Bureau, Phillaur, exclusive of the money order commission at the expense of the parties concerned.*

(vii) *Summoning of experts in criminal cases*—Experts may continue to be summoned to give evidence in Courts in criminal cases, and no fee shall be leviable in criminal cases prosecuted by Government.

(viii) *Instructions re: despatch of documents to Phillaur*—In order to ensure the protection of documents accompanying interrogatories sent by Civil Courts to the Sub-Judge, Phillaur, care must be taken to see that they are sent in stout envelopes or strong paper or cloth wrapping. They should be sent by registered post; acknowledgement due, at Government expense, both to and from Phillaur. For the return of the documents to the Courts concerned, the Sub-Judge, Phillaur, will use both lined envelopes of appropriate size to be obtained on indent for universal forms from the Controller of Printing and Stationery, Punjab.

Part C  
RULES REGULATING APPLICATIONS FOR AND PAYMENT OF  
THE SERVICES OF THE GOVERNMENT EXAMINER OF QUESTIONED DOCUMENTS

The rules on the above subject were circulated to all Civil and Criminal Courts with Punjab Government Endorsement No. 7206-H- 53/62203, dated the 28th August, 1953 on letter No. 41/3/50-Police-11, dated the 6th July, 1953 from the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, to all State Governments and are printed as Annexure to Chapter 9-A of High Court Rules and Orders, Volume III. The services of the Government Examiner of Questioned Documents can be availed of by Civil Courts in accordance with those rules.

Part D  
EXPERT OPINION IN FORGERIES RELATING TO STAMP AND CURRENCY AND  
BANK NOTES

The Central Government has suggested that in any cases of doubt in which the opinion of an expert may be required on the question whether stamps are genuine or forged, reference, should be made to the Master, Security Printing, India, Nasik Road, for his or his nominee's report.

**1. Fees chargeable by the Master, Security Printing**—The following fees will be charged by the Master, Security Printing, for the examination of stamps and for giving evidence on commission:—

(1) For each stamp examined, Rs. 10, but where the stamps to be examined consist of a block or blocks from the same sheet this fee will be charged for the examination of each block, as any one of the stamps is representative of the whole block.

(2) For stamps examined on commission, Rs. 20 per document, irrespective of the number of stamps requiring examination on each document; provided that where more than one document relating to the same case is to be examined on the same day, the charges will be Rs. 20 for the first and Rs. 10 for each subsequent document.

These fees will be credited to “VII—Stamps—Central—Security Printing Press—Miscellaneous”.

*(Government of India, Finance Department, Letter No. R.-Dis. No. 44-Stamps/35, dated the 26th April, 1935, to all State Governments, etc).*

**2. Expert opinion about genuineness of currency and Bank Notes. Fees of the expert**—The Government of India have approved of the following scale of charges to be made by the Master, Security Printing, India, Nasik Road, for the examination of currency and bank notes and for giving evidence on commission:—

(1) For each note examination, Rs. 10 per note.

(2) For notes examined on commission in connection with forgery cases, Rs. 20 per case.

These fees will be credited to “XXVII—Currency—Miscellaneous”.

*(Government of India, Finance Department, Letter No. D-5227- F., dated the 1st August, 1936, to all State Governments, etc.)*

**3. Fees of expert when opinion is required by the Police or the Reserve Bank**—The Central Government have decided that no charge should ordinarily be made by the Master, Security Printing, India, for giving expert assistance to the Police or to the Reserve Bank in connection with any criminal prosecution. In any case, however, where the Master, Security Printing, India, considers that his free services are being abused, he will bring the matter to the notice of Central Government. He will, of course, be entitled to charge for assistance given to private parties or in civil suits in which Government is not of the parties.

*(Government of India, Finance Department, Letter No. D/1880-F., dated the 12th March 1937, to all State Governments, etc.)*