

Coroners Act, 1871

Section 17 - Summoning Witnesses.

{Subs. by Act 10 of 1881, s.6, for the original paragraphs.} [It shall be the duty of all persons acquainted with the circumstances attending the death to appear before the inquest as witnesses; the Coroner shall inquire of such circumstances and the cause of death, and, if before or during the inquiry he is informed that any person, whether within or without the local limits of his jurisdiction, can give evidence or produce any document material thereto, may issue a summons requiring him to attend and give evidence or produce such document on the inquest.

Any person disobeying such summons shall be deemed to have committed an offence under section 174, section 175 or section 176 of the Indian Penal Code (45 of 1860), as the case may be.]

For the purpose of causing prisoners to be brought up to give evidence, the Coroner shall be deemed a Criminal Court within the meaning of {Subs by Act 4 of 1938 for "Act No.XV of 1869 (to provide facilities for obtaining the evidence and appearance of prisoners and for service of process upon them)".} [Part IX {Now see the Prisoners (Attendance in Courts) Act, 1955 (32 of 1955)} of the Prisoners Act, 1900 (3 of 1900)].
