

INFANTICIDE

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Infanticide is a crime of killing a newly born live born infant. The nature of the crime of infanticide varies from country to country. In most countries, it is a common law crime and any person including the mother, who kills a newly child may be charged with murder or manslaughter, depending upon whether there was intention to kill or not.

INFANTICIDE

Approximately two dozen countries currently have infanticide laws (Australia, Austria, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Korea, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom).

INFANTICIDE

In such countries, killing newly born infant by mother is regarded as separated from murder or manslaughter and the mother will be charged with "infanticide". The law of infanticide is framed in accordance with the view that the mental balance of mother may be affected by the child birth and its after effects or by strain of lactation.

NOTE:

- It is applied to mother only as alternative of murder
- Child has to be less than a year old
- Child with a separate existence
- It must have died due to deliberate act

STILLBIRTH

From the medical point of view, a baby is stillborn if after 28 weeks gestations, it did not at any time after being completely expelled from its mother, breath or show any signs of life. Most stillbirths either die in utero or during earlier stage of delivery.

ME'S DUTY

1. Identifying the mother, if she is unknown.
2. Determination whether or not the child was stillborn and whether it had a separate existence (was the infant born a live).
3. Estimate degree of maturity.

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4. Estimation of the period passed since delivery.
5. Estimation of time of death.
6. To determine of the cause of death.

SEPARATE EXISTENCE

A child with a "separate existence" would be infant that issued from its mother irrespective of its gestational age and who breathed or showed any other signs of life after being completely expelled from the maternal passages --- though the child still be attached to the placenta within the mother.

SIGNS OF MATURITY

- Height: around 50 cm
- Weight: Ranged from 3000 - 3500 gm
- Umbilical cord: present at middle of the body and it has 50 cm length
- Head signs: posterior fontanel closed, hair length 2 to 2.5 cm, Head circumference 13 inches

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- In males: testicles are in the scrotum
- Nails: fingers reach beyond the tips, toes reach at the level of tips
- Placenta: weighs 500 - 600 gm and diameter around 20 cm
- Ossification centers: upper end of tibia, cuboid and lower end of femur (0.5 cm).

AGE

INTRA-UTERINE LIFE

METHODS

- Height.
- Weight.
- Nails.
- Testicular development.
- Ossification centers.

HEIGHT

According to Hess's formula, the length of the fetus in cm is the square of the month, till the 5th month, then the month multiplied by 5. Examples

In the third month $(3)^2 = 9$ cm, while at 6 months it will be $6 \times 5 = 30$ cm --- etc.

WEIGHT

1 m = 2.5 gm, 2 = 10 gm, 3 = 30 gm
4 = 120 gm, the a formula for calculation from the 5th intra-uterine month.

$$3 \times M^3 (\text{month})^3 = \text{Weight in gm.}$$

NAILS

Begin to appear at 4th month; reach the tip of fingers at 8 months. At full term; the nails are beyond the tip of fingers and at the tip of toes.

TESTICLES

At 6 months; on the psoas muscle, at 7 months near the internal ring, at 8 months in the inguinal canal; at full term in the scrotum.

Ossification centers

- Clavicles ----- 1.5 month
- Long bones ----- 2 month
- Ischium ----- 3 month
- Pubis ----- 4 month
- Calcaneous ----- 5 month
- Manubrium ----- 6 month

Ossification centers

- Talus ----- 7 month
- Lower end of femur ---- 8 month
- Upper end of tibia & cuboid--- 9 m

VIABILITY

This is the potential ability of an infant to survive after birth. An immature fetus may be born alive, but incapable of maintaining an independent existence. Generally in most countries a period of 28 weeks was fixed for the onset of viability.

PROOF OF A SEPARATE EXISTENCE OR LIVE BIRTH

I. EXTERNAL SIGNS

1. Changes in the umbilical cord.
2. Desquamation of the skin.

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3. Antemortem injuries.
4. Presence of yellow stool or milk curdles in the wrappings are suggestive sign of live birth.

II. INTERNAL SIGNS

1. Signs of respiration.
2. Signs of feeding.
3. Cardiovascular changes.

SIGNS OF RESPIRATION

LUNG MACROSCOPIC EXAMINATION

Non Respired	Respired
Lungs are small not cover the heart and thymus	Big, filling chest cavity, cover the thymus and most of the heart
Uniform dark red	Pink red (mosaic like)
Edges are sharp	Edges are rounded
Surface is smooth & solid in consistency	Surface is not smooth & spongy in consistency

LUNG MICROSCOPIC EXAMINATION

Non Respired	Respired
Alveoli are collapsed & lined with low columnar epithelium	Alveoli are distended & lined with flat squamous epithelium

LUNG STATIC TEST

Non Respired	Respired
Lung weighs from 30 – 40 gm (1/70 of the total body weight)	Lung weighs from 70 – 80 gm (1/35 of the total body weight)

HYDROSTATIC TEST

This test based on flotation of lung as indication of infant respiration.

STOMACH AND INTESTINE STOMACH-BOWEL FLOTATION TEST

Ligatures are made at ends of stomach and intestine then removed and placed in water.

- If the stomach floats, this confirms respiration
- If the duodenum & jejunum float it means that the infant lived for about 3 h
- If all small intestine float it means survival for 5-6 h

SIGNS OF FEEDING

1. Stomach: presence of milk.
2. Large intestine: presence of well formed yellow stool.

CARDIOVASCULAR CHANGES

1. Changes in the umbilical vessels.
2. Foramen ovale.
3. Ducts arteriosus.

ESTIMATION OF MATURITY

This is a necessary part of the autopsy, both as a matter of record of size and presumed age of the infant, and also as a legal requisite in those jurisdictions that require proof of viability before a charge of infanticide brought.

TIME PASSED SINCE DELIVERY

- Food in the stomach and intestine: lived enough to be fed.
- Absence of meconium: lived for hours.
- Changes in the umbilical cord.
- Desquamation of the skin.
- Changes in the cardiovascular system.

TIME OF DEATH

Usually postmortem interval estimated From the postmortem changes. In newly born infant Rigor mortis is very rapid and Putrefaction very delayed.

CAUSE & MANNER OF DEATH

- I. Natural
- II. Accidental
- III. Negligence
- IV. Violence

THANK YOU