Forged documents are used for financial or extraneous gains causing wrongful loss to others. A number of corporate frauds and scams have been perpetrated in the past causing huge loss to government exchequer. Forged documents are produced to substantiate false claims. These documents generally relate to the cases pertaining to cheating, embezzlement, misappropriation, disproportionate assets, anonymous complaints, extortion or criminal misconduct and corporate frauds. Collection of proper standards for comparison with disputed documents, markings, packing and forwarding of these forensic documents to CFSLs/FSLs becomes important.

As many as 649 vigilance cases were registered by CBI and 4246 by state/UTs during 2013 under the Prevention of Corruption Act. About 5.45 crore Indian bank notes and 2.10 crore foreign currency were seized in cases falling under FERA (Foreign Exchange Regulation Act) and FEMA (Foreign Exchange Management Act) related to money laundering. There has been enormous about 350% increase in the number of searches and raids during 2013 than in 2012 as per the NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau) Annual Report 2013, which was published in 2014.

15.1 Relevant Sections under the IPC

1. Section 29 of the Indian Penal Code ‘Document’—The word ‘document’ denotes any matter expressed or described upon any substance by means of letters, figures, or marks, or by more than one of those means, intended to be used, or which may be used, as evidence of that matter.

Explanation 1.—It is immaterial by what means or upon what substance the letters, figures or marks are formed, or whether the evidence is intended for, or may be used in, a court of justice, or not.
Illustrations

(i) A writing expressing the terms of a contract, which may be used as evidence of the contract, is a document.

(ii) A cheque upon a banker is a document.

(iii) A power-of-attorney is a document.

(iv) A map or plan which is intended to be used or which may be used as evidence is a document.

(v) A writing containing directions or instructions is a document.

Explanation 2—Whatever is expressed by means of letters, figures or marks as explained by mercantile or other usage, shall be deemed to be expressed by such letters, figures or marks within the meaning of this section, although the same may not be actually expressed.

Illustration

A writes his name on the back of a bill of exchange payable to his order. The meaning of the endorsement, as explained by mercantile usage, is that the bill is to be paid to the holder. The endorsement is a document, and must be construed in the same manner as if the words ‘pay to the holder’ or words to that effect had been written over the signature.

2. Section 120B in the Indian Penal Code: Punishment of criminal conspiracy—

(i) Whoever is a party to a criminal conspiracy to commit an offence punishable with death, 2 [imprisonment for life] or rigorous imprisonment for a term of two years or upwards, shall, where no express provision is made in this Code for the punishment of such a conspiracy, be punished in the same manner as if he had abetted such offence.

(ii) Whoever is a party to a criminal conspiracy other than a criminal conspiracy to commit an offence punishable as aforesaid shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term not exceeding six months, or with fine or with both.

3. Section 407 in the Indian Penal Code: Criminal breach of trust by carrier, etc.—

Whoever, being entrusted with property as a carrier, wharfinger or warehouse-keeper, commits criminal breach of trust in respect of such property, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.
4. Section 408 in the Indian Penal Code: Criminal breach of trust by clerk or servant—Whoever, being a clerk or servant or employed as a clerk or servant, and being in any manner entrusted in such capacity with property, or with any dominion over property, commits criminal breach of trust in respect of that property, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

5. Section 417 in the Indian Penal Code: Punishment for cheating—Whoever cheats shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.

6. Section 418 in the Indian Penal Code: Cheating with knowledge that wrongful loss may ensue to person whose interest offender is bound to protect—Whoever cheats with the knowledge that he is likely thereby to cause wrongful loss to a person whose interest in the transaction to which the cheating relates, he was bound, either by law, or by a legal contract, to protect, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both.

7. Section 420 in the Indian Penal Code: Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property—Whoever cheats and thereby dishonestly induces the person deceived to deliver any property to any person, or to make, alter or destroy the whole or any part of a valuable security, or anything which is signed or sealed, and which is capable of being converted into a valuable security, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

8. Section 463 in the Indian Penal Code: Forgery—Whoever makes any false documents or false electronic record or part of a document or electronic record, with intent to cause damage or injury, to the public or to any person, or to support any claim or title, or to cause any person to part with property, or to enter into any express or implied contract, or with intent to commit fraud or that fraud may be committed, commits forgery.

9. Section 465 in the Indian Penal Code: Punishment for forgery—Whoever commits forgery shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to two years, or with fine, or with both.

10. Section 467 in the Indian Penal Code: Forgery of valuable security, will, etc.—Whoever forges a document which purports to be a valuable security or a will, or an authority to adopt a son, or which purports to give authority to any person to make or transfer any
valuable security, or to receive the principal, interest or dividends thereon, or to receive or
deliver any money, movable property, or valuable security, or any document purporting to be
an acquaintance or receipt acknowledging the payment of money, or an a quittance or receipt
for the delivery of any movable property or valuable security, shall be punished with
imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend
to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

11. Section 468 in the Indian Penal Code: Forgery for purpose of cheating—Whoever
commits forgery, intending that the document or electronic record forged shall be used for the
purpose of cheating, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term
which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

12. Section 469 in the Indian Penal Code: Forgery for purpose of harming reputation—
Whoever commits forgery, intending that the document or electronic record forged shall harm
the reputation of any party, or knowing that it is likely to be used for that purpose, shall be
punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to three years,
and shall also be liable to fine.

13. Section 470 in the Indian Penal Code: Forged document or electronic record—A false
document or electronic record made wholly or in part by forgery is designated ‘a forged
document or electronic record’.

14. Section 471 in the Indian Penal Code: Using as genuine a forged document or
electronic record—Whoever fraudulently or dishonestly uses as genuine any document or
electronic record which he knows or has reason to believe to be a forged document or
electronic record shall be punished in the same manner as if he had forged such document or
electronic record.

15. Section 472 in the Indian Penal Code: Making or possessing counterfeit seal, etc.,
with intent to commit forgery punishable under section 467—Whoever makes or counterfeits
any seal, plate or other instrument for making an impression, intending that the same shall be
used for the purpose of committing any forgery which would be punishable under section 467
of this Code, or, with such intent, has in his possession any such seal, plate or other
instrument, knowing the same to be counterfeit, shall be punished with imprisonment for life,
or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and
shall also be liable to fine.
16. **Section 473 in the Indian Penal Code: Making or possessing counterfeit seal, etc., with intent to commit forgery punishable otherwise**—Whoever makes or counterfeit any seal, plate or other instrument for making an impression, intending that the same shall be used for the purpose of committing any forgery which would be punishable under any section of this chapter other than section 467, or, with such intent, has in his possession any such seal, plate or other instrument, knowing the same to be counterfeit, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to seven years, and shall also be liable to fine.

17. **Section 489 in the Indian Penal Code 489(A-E): Tampering with property mark with intent to cause injury**—Whoever removes, destroys, defaces or adds to any property mark, intending or knowing it to be likely that he may thereby cause injury to any person, shall be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to one year, or with fine, or with both.

18. **Section 489A. Counterfeiting currency-notes or bank notes**—Whoever counterfeits, or knowingly performs any part of the process of counterfeiting, any currency note or bank note, shall be punished with imprisonment for life, or with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to ten years, and shall also be liable to fine.

19. **Section 489B. Using a genuine, forged or counterfeit currency notes or bank notes.**

20. **Section 489C. Possession of forged or counterfeit currency notes or bank notes.**

21. **Section 489D. Making or possessing instruments or materials for forging or counterfeiting currency notes or bank notes.**

22. **Section 489E. Making or using documents resembling currency notes or bank notes.**

**15.1.1 Pre-Search Planning and Preparation to Examine Scene of Offence:**

Make a clear assessment about the place where search is to be conducted for collection of physical evidence including documents.

**15.1.2 General Guidelines for Carrying out Search at Scene of Crime:**

(i) Collection of all possible, relevant and authentic information required for making assessment about the planning and preparation for search.

(ii) Assessment of all available information for planning and preparing for the correct timing of search.
15.1.3 Constituting Teams Required for Handling the Crime Scene

(i) Outer Cordon
(ii) Inner cordon
(iii) Search and seizure
(iv) Handling of witness
(v) Handling of suspects/accused
(vi) Law and order

15.1.4 Additional Guidelines

(i) Search should be led by a senior police officer.
(ii) Role of an informant/source/identifier must be clearly identified for an operation.
(iii) The roles and responsibilities of police and non-police personnel must be clearly defined.

15.1.5 Briefing Team Members

Members of a search team, including police and non-police personnel, should be briefed on following key points:

(i) The purpose of search.
(ii) The outlines of the plan of action.
(iii) The role and responsibilities of teams and individuals attending CS.

15.2 Basic Integrated Kit for Document Related Cases:

(i) Digital camera (min. 16 mega pixel)
(ii) High intensity light source
(iii) UV lamp-long, medium and short wavelength
(iv) IR light source
(v) Safety gloves
(vi) Safety masks
(vii) Marking crayon pencils (red and blue)
(viii) Lenses/magnifiers
Metallic scale

Transparent/celluloid envelopes (various sizes)

Thin glass sheets

Gum sticks

Marking black, blue and red pens

A4 plane white sheets

Card board box

Celluloid sheets

Forceps and spatula

Plastic tapes

Staplers

Cloth lined envelopes of all sizes

Clean white clothes

Wax sealing material (sealing wax, special seal, lighter, scissors, etc.).

Laptop

15.3 Crime Scene Investigation

Following three basic steps should be taken for effective crime scene investigation:

15.3.1 Protection and Security of a SOC:

The scene of crime should be protected with utmost care and precautions such as cordonning of the area, restrict entry/exit and access to unauthorized persons, disallowing tampering of evidence, photography and videography of the crime scene.

All telephones and mobiles must be taken charge of by team members.

15.3.2 Search for Evidence:

The search team should divide itself into sub-teams and systematically start searching the place from one end to another in each room/open space, etc. Depending upon the nature of a case, three types of evidences may be found at a SOC, namely, documentary evidence, forensic evidence and material evidence.
15.3.3 Documentary Evidence:

(i) Registers carrying details such as money transaction, visitors, personal details of victims, tasks assigned to people connected with the case

(ii) Letter head pads/practiced signatures on newspapers, children’s exercise books, etc.

(iii) Phone bills/electric bills/water bills/establishment bills etc.

(iv) Contact diaries/business cards

(v) Business related registers

(vi) Account related registers

(vii) Property documents

(viii) Employment papers

(ix) Identification documents (passport, ration card, voter’s card, PAN card, Aadhaar card, I-card etc.)

(x) Educational documents

(xi) Bank documents

(xii) Bank draft booklets, removed pages from booklets

(xiii) Tender documents/supply orders

(xiv) Printed formats of the government stationary, banks, company, etc.

15.3.4 Material Evidence

(i) Instruments used for writing: Pen, ball pen, pencils etc.

(ii) Raw material used for writing: Tracing papers, plain papers etc.

(iii) Computers: Desktop, laptop, palm top, floppies/CDs/pen drives etc.

(iv) Mobiles

(v) Video or still cameras

(vi) CCTV footage

(vii) Photocopiers, printers, scanners, typewriters

(viii) Rubber stamps, seals, inkpads used by accused
15.3.5 Crime Scene Photography (Document Photography)

**Aim of document photography:**

The main objective of crime scene photography consisting of document photography includes for records, analysis and demonstration purposes. The document photography includes photography under ultraviolet light, infrared light, oblique light, transmitted light and filters to enhance contrast. Trick photography is also used in some cases. The specialized photography is required in case of forgery, writings, signatures, alterations, obliterations, indentations and secret writings, etc. In a similar way, the photographs of disputed writings on wall, mirror, etc., is also required. The writings in which either media (writing ink) is unconventional or substrate (writing surface) is unusual are called unusual writings and should be photographed in the presence of a document expert which are further used by the expert for examination in the laboratory. Some examples of unusual writings are:

(i) Suicide note on palm  
(ii) Suicide note on forearm  
(iii) Writing on shoe  
(iv) Writing on shirt  
(v) Writing with blood on wall or floor  
(vi) Writing with coal on wall  
(vii) Writing on big stone boulders  
(viii) Writing with lipstick on mirror/car front/rear glass panels  
(ix) Writing on car chassis  
(x) Writing on seat cover of vehicle, etc.  
(xi) Writing with blood on palm, hand or clothes, etc.

15.4 Procedure for Preservation of Questioned and Standard Documents and Collection of Standard Document for Comparison:

(i) Examine paper quality and printing (if any) of the suspected document. If the same does not appear original, seize it. Examine the text of the document and see that the writings and signatures in it are original or photocopied or scanned or have been obtained through tricks.

(ii) It is possible that some lines or words or even letters are subsequently added, deleted, erased or obliterated from original text changing the meaning/value of the original document considerably. IO must look for such evidence.
(iii) Abnormal size and colour of paper, location of text and signatures, anachronistic features in the document should be carefully examined by IO.

(iv) Any feature suggestive of care and attention, slow and drawn signatures, re-touching, overwriting, presence of hesitations and tremors in signatures should be examined for forged signatures by IO.

(v) Features suggesting transplantation of signatures or signatures obtained by trickery are to be examined in a suspected document.

(vi) Any feature suggestive of carelessness in its production, however, show sign of genuineness.

(vii) If a relevant document show alterations in letters, words, lines, figures changing the value or importance, it should be seized.

(viii) All suspected documents should be photographed /photocopied on, as is where is basis. The questioned documents containing writing/signature/typewriting/stamp impressions etc. should be enclosed with red pencil and marked with blue pencil in ‘Q’ series (Q1, Q2, Q3 . . . ) and sealed in one separate envelope duly labelled with full case details and signed by the investigator.

(ix) Specimen or sample writing should be obtained from the suspect considering the principle of ‘Comparison of Like with Like’.

(a) Similar text, writings/figures, signatures should be obtained by dictating on similar type of paper with similar writing instrument, i.e. under similar parameters.

(b) Original disputed document should never be shown to the accused. The specimen writings should be sufficient and suitable for comparison with disputed writing/signatures.

(c) The specimen documents containing writing/signature/typewriting/stamp impressions etc. should be encircled and marked with blue pencil in ‘S’ series (S1, S2, S3 . . . ) and sealed in separate envelope duly labelled with full case details. If, IO feels that the accused is disguising the writings/signatures, suspect should be called after 3–4 days to give further samples. He is likely to forget about the nature of disguise that was performed earlier. The specimen writings should be obtained in slow, medium and fast speeds. After the specimen have been obtained, the suspect may be directed to write an endorsement ‘Given by me voluntarily’ followed by his own signature with date on each of the specimen sheet. All the specimen writings, thus taken, should be referred for examination. In case of old persons their age/health conditions may also be specified.
(d) The rubber stamp/metalled seal impressions should be obtained with uniform pressure under proper attestation. If sample rubber stamp is damaged/defective, contemporaneous impressions should be procured.

(e) The suspect should be made comfortable as far as possible for normal writings.

(x) Specimens of typewriting, computer printouts and printed matter should be obtained carefully. Any correction/rectification or repair work in the printers, etc., should be noted. Sufficient number of specimens should be obtained in such cases.

(xi) The admittedly genuine writings/signatures should be obtained from official records of contemporaneous documents duly proved under section 47 IEA. These documents should contain as far as possible similar pattern of signatures, text, letters, words, figures and combinations as appearing in disputed documents. Such writings are available in banks, government records, police records, business establishments and from friends and relatives, etc. The admittedly genuine or contemporaneous documents may be encircled and marked with blue pencil in ‘A’ series (A1, A2, A3 . . . ) and sealed separately in an envelope duly labelled with full case details.

(xii) Personal diary, children’s exercise books should be collected for practiced forgery. Newspapers and their cuttings may also be collected from crime scene and sealed in separate envelope as admittedly genuine writings/signatures for proving simulated forgery in some cases. Forgers generally use these materials for practice.

(xiii) In case of mechanically printed or duplicate documents, the suspect device itself should be submitted. If it is not possible to submit the device, at least 20–30 standard samples according to the questioned document along with entire range of alphabets, numerals and special characters should be obtained and sent for examination. If the suspected device has a number of settings, standards of comparable text of each setting be obtained and sent to laboratory.

(xiv) Rubber stamps, writing instruments, inks, carbon paper, etc., if found at crime scene should be sealed separately in envelope with full case details.

(xv) Each type of exhibit should be separately packed, sealed and labelled indicating the serial number of the items. The sealed envelopes may bear signatures and specific seal of the forwarding officer so that any tampering is immediately detected as it will also mutilate or destroy the seal. The metallic seal so used should be kept in the safe custody of the officer concerned. Sample seal impressions in a clean lined cloth or coarse paper should be obtained and sent separately along with forwarding letter for verification/tallying at CFSLs/FSLs. The requisition letter may contain Annexures–I,
II, III and IV as list of questioned writings/signatures, specimen writings/signatures, admittedly genuine writings and questionnaire.

(xvi) Original documents should be submitted to the FSLs/CFSLs. Photocopies or scanned copies are not suitable for scientific examination as they do not show all details of the original documents.

(xvii) The wax sealed parcel containing exhibits should be sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory preferably through special messenger or alternatively by insured parcel.

(xviii) The forwarding letter should be signed by the Presiding Officer of a court or by a Gazetted Officer duly appointed Inquiry Officer.

(xix) Lamination of document should not be done. Alternatively the documents may be kept in plastic covers.

15.4.1 Marking of Documents

**Questioned Documents**

![Questioned Documents Image]

**Admittedly Genuine Documents**

![Admittedly Genuine Documents Image]

**Specimen Documents**

![Specimen Documents Image]

**Figure 15.1:** Marking of documents
15.4.2 Questionnaire for Genuine Signatures: Some of the Sample Queries

(i) Whether or not the disputed signatures marked Q1 and Q2 are written by the person who wrote the specimen signatures marked S1 and S2 and admittedly genuine signatures marked A1 and A2.

(ii) Whether Q1 and/or Q2 are transplanted signatures.

(iii) Any other observation relevant to the case may also be pointed.

Note: Specific queries would depend upon the nature of crime and exhibit seized.

15.4.3 Forgery

Forgeries in signatures can be classified into the following four general categories:

(i) **Simple Forgery:** Where signatures of fictitious person/non-existing person are written by the forger in his own style of writing. There is no physical or mental model of the signature before the forger. These are freely written signatures with no signs of imitation. The forger can always be identified in such cases.

(ii) ** Forgery by Tracing:** Where genuine signature is used as model for tracing purpose. There are evidence of outlines, indentations, hesitations and retouching in signatures. In such cases, the forger cannot be identified as tracing is drawing and does not reflect writing habits of the forger.

(iii) **Simulated or Copied Forgery:** In this type of forgery, accused person practice a number of times by looking at the model signature and copying the model. The authorship of such signatures can be fixed in some cases depending upon extent of imitation and disguise by the forger and presence of individual writing features of the forger in the forgery.

(iv) **Forgery by Trickery or by Using Built-up Documents:** Where the genuine signature is normally used and is either transplanted using photocopier, scanner and colour laser printer or lifting the genuine signature written over revenue stamp or addition of a text over genuine signature altering the meaning, value or importance of the document considerably, the signatures are normally genuine. Intersection of signature and writing/typewriting also reveal the sequence of strokes indicating which one (out of the two) was written first and thereby determining genuineness or otherwise nature of the document.

The transplanted signatures obtained by using photocopier, scanner and colour laser printer can be identified by conducting spot tests i.e. there will be no indentation marks on the
reverse of the document, no penetration of ink or pressure marks can be expected in the paper, when viewed in strong light at different angles show presence of toner and normally the ink (toner) is not soluble in water. The ink signatures can always be differentiated from computer generated and printed signatures by microscopic examination.

Samples of Forged Signatures

**Figure 15.2**: A case of simulated forgery-obtained by copying admitted signature of Ms. S. Solanki

**Figure 15.3**: Forgery by lifting two revenue stamps from some genuine document and re-fixing them on the fraudulent document

*Source*: FSL, NCT, Delhi

15.4.4 Questionnaire: Some of the Sample Queries:

(i) Whether or not the disputed signatures marked Q1 is written by the person who wrote the specimen signatures marked S1 to S10 and admittedly genuine signatures marked A1 to A8.

(ii) If not, whether the writer of signatures marked S11 to S20 or S21 to S32 also wrote the disputed signature marked Q1.
(iii) Whether Q1 is a transplanted signature.
(iv) Whether the signature marked Q1 is written with the same ink as that of the body writings.
(v) Whether the signatures were done prior to writing (or printing) of the document or after the document was written (or printed).
(vi) Any other observation relevant to the case may also be pointed out.

Note: Specific queries would depend upon the nature of crime and exhibit seized.

Do’s and Don’ts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do’s</th>
<th>Don’ts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Check the quality of paper and printing in a disputed document.</td>
<td>Do not ignore the inferior quality of paper of important documents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Look for abnormalities in text of the documents.</td>
<td>Do not ignore alterations in documents.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make the suspect comfortable while obtaining sample writings.</td>
<td>Do not threaten the accused at the time of furnishing specimens.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Follow the principle of comparison of ‘Like with Like’, for obtaining specimen writings/typewriting/stamp impressions.</td>
<td>Do not procure specimen writings casually and don’t show the disputed documents to the accused.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The specimen writings should be written in normal conditions.</td>
<td>Do not send disguised writings as standards for comparison with normal writings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The writings/signatures should be properly encircled by coloured pencils and marked at appropriate places.</td>
<td>Do not mark the relevant portions of disputed document abruptly. Do not mark with pen/ballpoint pen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Every document at crime scene may be useful in investigation which should be collected.</td>
<td>Even the blank document should not be discarded. It may contain secret writings or indentation marks useful for investigation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15.4.5 Basic Equipment for Examination of Genuine or Forged Writing/Signatures:

![Figure 15.4: Stereo zoom microscope](image-url)
Figure 15.5: UV lamp

Figure 15.6: Leica stereo zoom microscope
15.4.6 Wax Sealing of Documents:

A metallic seal of the department, a gas stove or burner, lac sticks (wax), are essentially required for sealing of cloth-lined or inside laminated envelopes containing exhibits. The sealing should be neat, clean and tamper-proof. A sample seal should be sent separately, preferably on a white cloth.

15.5 Seizure List:

The seizure list and memo must be prepared on the spot itself in the presence of two independent witnesses. The witnesses should sign the lists and memos giving their full details including temporary and permanent addresses in their own handwriting, signature and date.

15.6 End of Search

Before announcing the formal termination of a search operation the officer-in-charge must ensure that;

(i) Every potential witness is safely escorted to a police station with an officer deputed for the task.

(ii) All evidence collected at a SOC are properly packed, sealed and marked.

(iii) All memos are duly filled in and all other formalities in respect of procedures mandated by the law are completed.
15.7 Scrutiny of Evidence Collected from the SOC:

A thorough evaluation of the evidence collected from a SOC provides highly relevant and useful information for the purpose of investigation including crucial information about:

15.7.1 Accused

(i) Identity of accused (photo, genuine documentary record, testimony)

(ii) Information and/or details about other members (photo, genuine documentary record, testimony).

15.7.2 Crime

(i) Items and/or description of items used for commission of crime (documents, instruments, etc.).

(ii) Nature of exploitation (record, testimony).

(iii) Modus operandi.

15.8 Confiscation of Proceeds of Crime:

(i) Any financial crime is committed for generating illegal and illegitimate money. A part of it is utilized to create other legal and/or illegal businesses/commercial establishment.

(ii) It is therefore, necessary to confiscate the proceeds of crime.

(iii) The IO should track the proceeds of crimes with required documentary evidence establishing clear links with the assets owned by a member.

15.9 Submission of Charge Sheet/Complaint

Depending on the nature of a case, a charge sheet/complaint should be filed at the end of investigation. A legal review of the charge sheet or complaint should be obtained from the concerned public prosecutor before filing.

A complaint should include details about all the offences made out in a case including the ones under IPC, and must only be filed after securing authority from a competent authority as identified or appointed under the relevant Act.
15.10 Case Studies:

**Case Study 1**

Mr X was unhappy because his elder sister and his mother had obtained grant of probate in respect of a will in which Mr X’s father had apparently left his entire estate to his sister and Mr X’s wife. Mr X alleged that the will had been forged and/or it had not been properly executed and so his father had died intestate, i.e. without making a will. Mr X succeeded in respect of both allegations because evidences were available that the will was signed after his father’s death. We sent the will and other documents bearing deceased’s signatures to a forensic handwriting expert. The expert produced a report confirming that, in her view, the will had indeed been forged. Eventually, because of this evidence, Mr X’s mother and his sister accepted that the will was invalid and a court order was obtained that Mr X’s father had died without any will and so Mr X was entitled to share in his father’s estate.

*Source: [https://www.kingslaynaply.co.uk](https://www.kingslaynaply.co.uk)*

2. Poyais, the Bogus Nation

**Case Study 2**

A Scottish adventurer, Gregor McGregor, perpetrated an almost unbelievable swindle in the early 1800s. The British Naval Officer, who could boast participation in some legitimate battle, turned up in London in 1817 claiming that he had been appointed the leader of a new Central American Nation, ‘Poyais’. He even published an entire book detailing Poyais. The people were eager to invest and some even exchanged their money for Poyais dollars and planned to settle in the new nation. There was just one problem: the country of Poyais did not exist. Two ships of settlers left Britain for Poyais in the early 1820s, and found nothing but jungle.

*Source: [http://Theoddmentemporium tumblr.com](http://Theoddmentemporium tumblr.com)*

**References**


