Age Estimation Committee in Qatar
CONTENTS

Foreword ........................................ i
Age estimation forms and certificate ..................... 1
Criteria for age assessment ................................ 1
Sample forms ........................................ 3
Sketch of centres of ossification ........................ 7

FOREWORD

A birth certificate or entries in the birth register are generally accepted as prima facie evidence of age of individuals. Unfortunately, birth registration is either nonexistent or incomplete in many countries of the world.

The State of Qatar has decided for official purposes to estimate the age of individuals without birth certificates. This is an interesting account of the procedure that is being used in that country.

The Technical Papers series is issued by IIVRS for the information of its Associates. The views presented are those of the Authors'. The IIVRS does not necessarily endorse the views or recommendations in this document. There are no restrictions on the use of material published by IIVRS. Material from this publication may be quoted or duplicated without permission.
Age Estimation Committee in Qatar

by

Dr. Sayed A. Taj El Din
MB B Ch, D PH, F R S H, M A P H A
Director of Preventive Health
Ministry of Public Health
State of Qatar

The State of Qatar is an independent Arab State. Its territory occupies a peninsula covering approximately 4,000 square miles on the western shore of the Arabian (ex-Persian) Gulf. The total population estimate is 200,000. About 98 percent of total births occur in the Maternity Hospital (210 beds) Birth registration takes place in the Department of Preventive Health for all deliveries that occur in the Maternity Hospital.

The Age Estimation Committee was formed by an Amiri Decree issued in January, 1970. Members of this Committee are:

1) The Medico-Legal Doctor
2) The Medical Officer of Health.
3) A Physician from the School Health Department
4) A Secretary and Typist

The Committee meets weekly in the office of the Medico Legal Doctor in the main hospital (Rumaillah Hospital — 550 beds)

AGE ESTIMATION FORMS AND CERTIFICATE

Applications for age estimation are collected throughout the week. Each applicant has to fill the Form No. 1 (request for age estimation) which contains the following data: name, father’s name, family name, mother’s name, sex, religion and nationality. Form No. 2 is the medical report for age estimation and contains the full data of the applicant, and the medical report of the Committee which includes the following criteria: height, weight, growth, teeth, signs of puberty, distinguishing marks, the X-ray report, and the Committee’s decision on the estimated age of the applicant. Form No. 3 is a request for X-ray (elbow and wrist joints and hand, iliac crest — Xiphisternal joint). Form No. 4 is the age estimation certificate. A recent photo (6 x 4 cm) is attached to each form.

Since 1959, birth registers are kept in the Public Health Department. Two copies of a birth certificate are issued free to each mother of all children who have been born in the Maternity Hospital. Home deliveries have to be reported to the Public Health Department within a month of the date of delivery. Recently, a new law for birth and death registration was approved by the ministerial cabinet which regulates birth registration of home deliveries (not more than 2 percent of total deliveries). Prior to the past 3 years, age was estimated for anybody (Qatari or non-Qatari) but now it has been restricted to Qatari Nationals only. The total number of cases which have been estimated up until 31 December 1979 was 25,959. The total number of live births registered in the year 1979 was 6,057, of which 2,755 were Qatari and 3,392 were foreigners.

Age estimation certificates are needed for the following ministries and departments:

1) Ministry of Education (at school entry)
2) Ministry of Interior
3) Ministry of Social Affairs
4) Traffic Department (for drivers’ licenses — 18 years)
5) Civil Court

CRITERIA FOR AGE ASSESSMENT

Height and weight

The following table shows the mean heights and weights of ages between 6-18 years:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Height (cms)</th>
<th>Weight (kgs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>123</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>129</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>132</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>41-42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>46-47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>52-53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>63-64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>68-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>172</td>
<td>70-71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dentition

Eruption of Deciduous Teeth

Central incisors — lower
Internal incisors — lower
First molars
Canines
Second molars
Eruption of Permanent Teeth

First Molars — lower
Central incisors — lower
Lateral incisors — lower
First premolars — upper
Canines — lower
First premolars — lower
Second premolars — upper
Canines — upper
Second premolars — lower
Second molars
Third molars

Date of Eruption
8th month
10th month
12th month
18th month
24th month
6 years
6½ years
6-7 years
7-8 years
8-9 years
10 years
10-11 years
11 years
10-12 years
11-12 years
11-12 years
12 years
17-22 years

Ossification centres of carpal lower

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Capitate</th>
<th>Hamate</th>
<th>Triquetrum</th>
<th>Lunate</th>
<th>Scaphoid</th>
<th>Trapezium</th>
<th>Trapezoid</th>
<th>Platform</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>M 3-4 Yrs</td>
<td>4-5 Yrs</td>
<td>6 Yrs</td>
<td>6 Yrs</td>
<td>6 Yrs</td>
<td>11 Yrs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F 2-3 Yrs</td>
<td>3-4 Yrs</td>
<td>4 Yrs</td>
<td>4-5 Yrs</td>
<td>4-5 Yrs</td>
<td>3-10 Yrs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

M = Males
F = Females

1) These centres are cartilaginous at birth.
2) All carpal bones normally ossify from a single centre of ossification.
3) Centres for carpal bones appear from 1-2 years earlier in females except the pisiform which may be 3-4 years earlier.

The age estimation certificate is issued in duplicate, with a serial number for any future reference if a copy is needed by the applicant.
STATE OF QATAR
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Age Estimation Committee
Form No. (1)

REQUEST FOR AGE ESTIMATION

Serial No. ____________________________________________
Date ____________________________________________
Name ____________________________________________
Father's Name ____________________________________________
Family Name ____________________________________________
Mother's Name ____________________________________________
Sex ____________________________________________
Religion ____________________________________________
Nationality ____________________________________________

توقيع والد أو ولي أمر طالب تقدير العمر أو مقدم الطلب

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

LEFT THUMB PRINT

بصمة الإبهام الأيسر

توقيع آخر بصمة: ____________________________
وظيفته: ____________________________
**MEDICAL REPORT FOR AGE ESTIMATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Age Estimation Committee</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Form No. (2)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Serial No.</strong></th>
<th><strong>Date</strong></th>
<th><strong>Requested by</strong></th>
<th><strong>Name</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Father's Name</strong></th>
<th><strong>Family Name</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mother's Name</strong></th>
<th><strong>Sex</strong></th>
<th><strong>Religion</strong></th>
<th><strong>Nationality</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Medical Report of Committee:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Weight</strong></th>
<th><strong>Height</strong></th>
<th><strong>Growth</strong></th>
<th><strong>Teeth</strong></th>
<th><strong>Signs of Puberty</strong></th>
<th><strong>Distinguishing Marks</strong></th>
<th><strong>X-Ray Report</strong></th>
<th><strong>Committee Decision</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Ministry of Public Health**

**Age Estimation Committee**

**Medical Officer of Health**

**Minister of Public Health**

**Physician**

---

**LEFT Thump Print**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE OF QATAR</th>
<th>FORM 3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH</td>
<td>No.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examination Requested</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History + Clinical Details</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AGE ESTIMATION</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X RAY DEPT. USE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DATE OF X RAY REPORT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LMP</th>
<th>ALLERGIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WALKING</td>
<td>CHAIR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| DATE | SIGNATURE |

| STAMP |

**XRAY** MR 48
Age Estimation Committee
Form No. (4)

STATE OF QATAR
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH

AGE ESTIMATION CERTIFICATE

Name: __________________________________________________________
Father's Name: ___________________________________________________
Family Name: _____________________________________________________
Mother's Name: ___________________________________________________
Sex: _____________________________________________________________
Religion: _________________________________________________________
Nationality: ______________________________________________________
Estimated Age: ___________________________________________________
Estimated Date of Birth: ___________________________________________
Date of Issue: ___________________________________________________
Registration No.: _________________________________________________

DIRECTOR OF MEDICAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH

Doha - Qatar - Arabian Gulf
CENTRES OF OSSIFICATION

LEFT HAND.

Capitellum appears at 2nd y.
Humerus

Est. Epicondyle
♂ appears at 13 y.
♀ less 1-2 y.

Upper end of Radius
♂ appears < 6-7 y.
♀ < 5-6 y.
♂ fuses < 18 y.
♀ < 14 y.

Lower end
♂ appears < 2nd y.
♀ < 1st y.

Radius
ULNA

Lateral Side
Medial Side

Periform bone appears at 11 y.
♂ fuses at 12 y.
♀ at 18 y.

ULNA

Low end of ULNA
♂ appears by 8 y.
♀ < 12 y.
♂ fuses at 19 y.
♀ < 15-16 y.

(LEFT FOREARM)

Iliac crest fuses at
♂ 23 y.
♀ 21 y.