

Protocol at work in the daily life of the Government Officer

POST NOMINALS

What are Post Nominals?

- **Post-nominal letters**, also called **post-nominal initials**, **post-nominal titles**, **designatory letters** or simply **post-nominals**, are letters placed after a person's name to indicate that the individual holds a position, an academic degree, accreditation, an office, a military decoration, or honour, or is a member of a religious institute or fraternity.

An individual may use several different sets of post-nominal letters, but in some contexts it may be customary to limit the number of sets to one or just a few. The order in which post-nominals are listed after a name is based on order of precedence and what is appropriate for a given situation. Post-nominal letters are one of the main types of [name suffix](#).

In Contrast:

In contrast, pre-nominal letters precede the name rather than following it, such as addressing a physician or professor as "Dr. Smith".

Among the Post Nominals associated with National Honours are:

NH: National Heroes – Not necessarily shown beside the name of the National Hero

ON: Order of the Nation. Reserved for the Governor-General and Prime Ministers

OE: Order of Excellence. Reserved for foreign nationals

OM: Order of Merit. Special luminaries such as Miss Lou, Rex Nettleford, Bob Marley

OJ: Order of Jamaica, - perhaps the most popular among the highest rankings. The current Cabinet Secretary Mrs. Audrey Sewell, for instance

CD/OD: Same, however there is Officer Class (CD) Order of Distinction (OD)

Badges and Military Medals – These are of similar rank. Difference is badges are for civilians and Military medals are for military officers. E.g. Badge of Honour for Gallantry BH (G) (non-civilian); Badge of Honour for Meritorious Service - BH(M) (Civilian)

A few rules:

- 1) How the post nominal is placed depends on the context. So for example the Clergy will have their own rules. Academics will have their own and of course Government will have their own
- 2) In Government, which we are concerned with, the title will be guided by the Order of Precedence (as mentioned above).
- 2) In other contexts outside of National honours post-nominals may include CD, MP JP.

Question, what determines the order in which someone who has more than one post-nominal is placed?

They are listed according to the highest and most recent. Where a personal post nominal is included it comes last.

e.g. the former Chief of Defence Staff has several. He uses the following:

Rocky Meade CD, JP, PHD

A Member of Parliament may reflect the following:

Mr. Allan Jones CD, MP, JP

Finally...a common mistake:

Paul Morgan (Mr.)

Never place “Mr.” after a name when the subject is a male

THANK YOU

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