

DISPOSITION OF REMAINS AMERICAN EMBASSY ATHENS, GREECE

MAJOR RELIGIONS

Roughly 95% of the permanent population of Greece professes the Greek Orthodox faith, the remaining 5% is divided among Roman Catholics, Protestants, Moslems, Jews, and Gregorian Armenians. While customs pertaining to death and burial are dominated by Greek Orthodox practice, numerous mortuaries are well acquainted with and able to follow most practices of other religions and traditions.

REFRIGERATION

There are about 250 refrigerated units in the Attica area, including the Athens and Piraeus morgues, and facilities at cemeteries and funeral homes. The Athens Morgue is located at Mikras Asias 75, Athens, tel. 210-7462429, and the Piraeus Morgue is located at Gounari 31-33, Piraeus, tel. 210-4613904.

EMBALMING

Embalming is done in Greece when remains are to be transported long distances. Under Greek regulations, un-embalmed remains must be buried prior to the onset of decay, or within 48 hours of death. In remote areas without refrigeration, un-embalmed remains must be buried within 24 hours in the summer; during winter months the deadline can be extended to 36 hours. Embalming costs averages from 120 Euros/\$164.16 to 350 Euros/\$478.80 in Athens and from 120 Euros/\$164.16 to 700 Euros/\$957.59 in outlying parts of the country and remote islands.

AUTOPSIES

An autopsy is mandatory when a violent or sudden death occurs or when the deceased was hospitalized less than 24 hours, unless there had been a clear prior diagnosis explaining cause of death. The deceased's attending physician or relatives may request an autopsy after any death. The Ministry of Justice employs approximately 25 coroners country-wide who are responsible for performing autopsies. District attorneys and police authorize the autopsies.

Note: Autopsies – In October 2012, the Embassy learned that during an autopsy, organs may be removed along with histological tissue for testing at the discretion of the Medical Examiner, **without** the knowledge or consent of next of-kin. Autopsies are carried out by local Medical Examiners who fall under the jurisdiction of the Greek Ministry of Justice. Tests are completed on removed organs and specimens, long after the deceased's body has been buried locally or shipped to the U.S. The Greek Ministry of Justice has indicated that organs and specimens tested remain in the possession of the lab three months from the day that the autopsy was performed and destroyed afterwards.

Organs removed and histological specimens taken may be returned to the next-of-kin upon his/her request, provided that a power of attorney either to a lawyer or local funeral home is sent in order for them to apply for the return of the above with the appropriate department of the lab. There are costs involved and this is a lengthy administrative procedure. Costs can vary from 300 Euros/\$410.40 to 2,000 Euros/\$2,735.98 (rates are subject to exchange rate fluctuations). For information on local English-speaking attorneys, please see our [list of attorneys](#) or the funeral homes below.

CREMATION

Cremation is now legally permitted in Greece when the deceased is not of the Greek Orthodox faith, but no cremation facilities are yet available. Some funeral homes ship embalmed remains to nearby countries where cremation is permitted, and make necessary arrangements to forward the ashes for final disposition.

LOCAL BURIAL/SHIPMENT TO THE U.S.:

BURIAL IN GREECE:

The cost of a simple burial in Greece, without embalming, averages from 600 Euros/\$820.79 to 2,500 Euros/\$3,419.97 (See "embalming" for additional costs).

SHIPMENT OF REMAINS TO THE US:

The basic cost for complete preparation of remains from Athens to the U.S., charged by the Greek funeral home, averages from 2,500 Euros/\$3,419.97 to 10,000 Euros/\$13,679.89. The shipping cost charged by the airline for shipping the remains from Athens to the U.S., is in addition to the fees of the funeral home and is calculated on weight (roughly estimating fees start from 800 euro/\$1,094.39 to 1,750 euro/\$2,393.98). (Detailed charges may be found on page 5 & 6). When the death occurs outside of Athens an additional cost is charged by the funeral home covering ferry charges, mileage, highway tolls, etc., starting from approx. 700 euro/\$957.59 to 1,500 euro/\$2,051.98. The fee for storage varies from 20 Euros/\$27.35 to 150 Euros/\$205.19 per day.

EXHUMATION AND SHIPMENT

According to local law, in urban, public cemeteries, skeletal remains must be exhumed three years after interment and placed in an ossuary container. Un-embalmed remains may be disinterred before three years elapse only by permission of the local district attorney, and exhumation must occur in the presence of the coroner. The cost of shipment of such un-embalmed remains to the U.S. varies from 1,500 Euro/\$2,051.98 to 8,000 Euros/\$10,943.91. The shipping costs are in addition to the fees described above.

SHIPMENT OF SKELETAL REMAINS TO THE US:

The basic cost of complete exhumation and preparation for shipment of skeletal remains from Athens to the U.S., charged by the Greek funeral home, averages from 800 euro/ \$1,094.39 to 2,500 Euros/\$3,419.98. The shipping cost charged by the airline for shipping the skeletal remains to the U.S., is in addition to the fees of the funeral home and will depend on the weight of the remains. (Details may be found on page 5 & 6).

CASKETS AND CONTAINERS

Although hermetically sealed, metal caskets, such as those used in the U.S., are now available at a few Athens funeral homes, this type of casket is seldom used for shipment due to the cost and weight. Instead, a wooden casket is placed inside a metal container which is welded shut. The container is in turn encased in a wooden box for shipment.

The following list of Funeral Homes is provided for death cases involving U.S. citizens, with the disclaimer that the list does not constitute an endorsement, and that the fee and method of payment should be negotiated directly by those responsible for payment with the funeral home of his/her choice:

INFORMATION FOR FUNERAL HOMES

Dealing with the death of a family member or loved one can be a very stressful experience and this is often compounded when the death occurs overseas. We hope that the following information on what to expect from the process here in Greece is helpful to you if you are faced with such a situation.

The American Embassy in Athens prepares the consular "Report of an American Citizen Abroad" for all U.S. citizens who die in Greece. This document is for use in the U.S. and it is based on the Greek Death certificate, the deceased's U.S. passport and information given to us by the relatives. For that purpose the deceased's relatives should contact the American Citizen Services of the American Embassy in Athens, Monday through Friday from 8:30 – 17.00, tel. 210-720-2414, fax 210-724-5313.

The list of funeral homes which follows is provided for your assistance and does not constitute an endorsement by the Embassy. The fee and method of payment must be negotiated by you directly with the funeral home of your choice. The Embassy can assist with the transfer of funds from the U.S. or elsewhere, or you can have them directly sent to the funeral home of your choice through Western Union.

Should you wish the remains to be shipped to the U.S. please ascertain whether the funeral home you select is able to arrange this.

Information for persons of Jewish faith:

The Jewish community offers services requested by the faith in the course of preparation. The following contacts will be helpful: The Office of the Jewish Community of Athens, Rabbi Isaac Mizan, Melidoni 5, Athens, 210 325-2823, 210 325-2773, 210-325-2875.

ATHENS

GIANNAKOPOULOS Anargyros Funeral Home

Director: Mr. Anargyros Giannakopoulos
Deinokratous 49, 106 76 Athens
Tel. 210 721-0173/174, Fax. 210 723-1650
Nikos Giannakopoulos: 6977326484
Dimitris Sotiropoulos: 6977329292
Manos Lignos: 6977303063
e-mail: agiannakopoulos@otenet.gr

KALOUMENOS Minas Funeral Home

Director: Mr. Minas Kaloumenos
Ioanninon 95, 104 44 Athens
Tel. 210 5154-600 (office)
210-2527-550 (h)
Fax 210-5131-660
Cell: 6944304051
e-mail: mk@mkassist.gr

Successors of K. LYKOSKOUFIS & Co

Director: Mr. Vasilis Kokoris
Valtetsiou 12 & Ippokratous, 106 80 Athens
Tel. 210 361-2007/ 362-3598 (office)
Fax. 210 361-6084, Cell phone: 6972885324
e-mail:
vasiliskokoris@lykoskoufis.onmicrosoft.com

D.K. MYSTRAS Funeral Home

Director: Mr. Dimitrios Mystras
Sari 50, 105 53 Athens
Tel. 210 3218-692/3245-562
Fax. 210-3242-163, Cell: 6944506790
e-mail: mystrask@otenet.gr

KYRIAKIDIS Nikolaos Funeral Home

Director: Mr. Nikolaos Kyriakidis
Anapafseos 27, 116 36 Athens
Tel. 210-923-7772, 210-922-7900
Fax: 210-922-1607
Cell phone: 6974018949
Website: www.grafeia-teleton-kyriakidis.gr
Email: info@grafeia-teleton-kyriakidis.gr

IRAKLIO, CRETE

MARKOULAKIS, M. Funeral Home

Director: Mr. Minas Markoulakis
Ger. Pardali 2 & Panarous,
712 01 Iraklio; Tel. 2810-284504
2810-282080; Fax. 2810-289133
Cell: 6944471147
e-mail: minas.markoulakis@gmail.com

RHODES

THEMELIS ASTERIS Funeral Home

Director: Mrs. Stella Asteris
Kritika 107, 851 00 Rhodes
Tel. 22410-24107/34279, Fax. 22410-37300
Cell: 6946284666
E-mail: kikiasteri@hotmail.com

AMERIKANOS G. Funeral Home

Director: Mrs. Maria Amerikanos
Patriarhou Athinagora 56
851 00 Rhodes
Tel. 22410-33400/28901(also fax)
Cell: 6989197556
e-mail: amerikanos83@yahoo.gr

CORFU

KOSTAS GRAMMENOS Funeral Home

Director: Mr. Kostas Grammenos
18 Alex. Panagouli, 491 00 Corfu
Tel. 26610-20390, Fax. 26610-40560
2 Orpheus St, Glyfada (ATHENS)
Tel. 210-8055656; Cell: 6948214734
e-mail: grammen@otenet.gr

THESSALONIKI

GESIOS Funeral Home

G. Papandreou 30
546 46 Thessaloniki
Tel. 2310-429141; Fax: 2310-429151
Cell: 6944242142
e-mail: info@floralcreations.gr

MAVRIDIS, Konstantinos Funeral Home

Agiou Dimitriou 147, 546 31 Thessaloniki
Tel.: 2310-206032, Fax: 2310-203906
Cell Phone: 6937-005894
e-mail: mavridisef@gmail.com

AIRFRIGHT COSTS PER KILO

LOCAL COSTS HAVE BEEN CONVERTED FROM THE LOCAL CURRENCY (EURO) TO US DOLS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EXCHANGE RATE OF 1/15/2014: 1.00 DOLLAR EQUALS TO 0,731 EURO

KLM & AIR FRANCE

ATHENS – CHICAGO	5.61 EURO	(US DOLS \$7.67)
ATHENS – HOUSTON	5.81 EURO	(US DOLS \$7.94)
ATHENS – LOS ANGELES	5.81 EURO	(US DOLS \$7.94)
ATHENS – NEW YORK	5.61 EURO	(US DOLS \$7.67)
ATHENS – MIAMI	5.81 EURO	(US DOLS \$7.94)

*PLUS AIRPORT FEES, HUMAN REMAINS FEES, TERMINAL HANDLING, AIRWAY BILL FEES:
135.00 Euros (US DOLS \$184.67)

DELTA

ATHENS - NEW YORK	2.50 EURO	(US DOLS \$3.42)
ATHENS - LOS ANGELES	3.30 EURO	(US DOLS \$4.51)
ATHENS-ATLANTA	3.05 EURO	(US DOLS \$4.17)

*PLUS AIRPORT FEES, HUMAN REMAINS, TERMINAL HANDLING, AIRWAY BILL, FUEL & SECURITY FEES: 151.15 EURO (US DOLS \$206.77)

LUFTHANSA

ATHENS – CHICAGO	14.86 EURO	(US DOLS \$20.32)
ATHENS – LOS ANGELES	15.00 EURO	(US DOLS \$20.51)
ATHENS – NEW YORK	14.86 EURO	(US DOLS \$20.32)
ATHENS – MIAMI	15.76 EURO	(US DOLS \$21.55)
ATHENS – HOUSTON	15.00 EURO	(US DOLS \$20.51)

*PLUS AIRPORT FEES, HUMAN REMAINS, TERMINAL HANDLING AIRWAY BILL, FUEL & SECURITY FEES: 96.40 EURO (US DOLS \$131.87)

BRITISH AIRWAYS

ATHENS-CHICAGO	3.21 EURO	(US DOLS \$4.39)
ATHENS-LOS ANGELES	4.27 EURO	(US DOLS \$5.84)
ATHENS-NEW YORK	2.80 EURO	(US DOLS \$3.83)
ATHENS-MIAMI	3.41 EURO	(US DOLS \$4.66)
ATHENS-HOUSTON	4.04 EURO	(US DOLS \$5.52)

*PLUS AIRPORT FEES, HUMAN REMAINS, TERMINAL HANDLING, AIRWAYBILL, FUEL FEES: 21.26 EURO (US DOLS \$29.08)

SAS-SWISS INT'L

ATHENS-CHICAGO	4.51 EURO	(US DOLS \$6.16)
ATHENS-NEW YORK	4.10 EURO	(US DOLS \$5.60)

*PLUS AIRPORT FEES, HUMAN REMAINS, TERMINAL HANDLING & AIRWAY BILL FEES: 50.00 EURO (US DOLS \$68.40)

The numerous airlines serving Athens usually make international shipment feasible on a daily basis. However, routings often cannot be direct due to freight limitations on certain flights and the need to secure onward connections and proper storage facilities at the U.S. port of entry. In-country transport from outlying areas to Athens is often done by truck or by hearse. Boat or domestic flights are also available. Trains are rarely used.

Note: All costs above have been converted from local currency (Euros) to Dollars in accordance with the rate of 1/15/2014

1 Dollar=0.731 Euro

American Citizen Services
American Embassy, Athens, Greece
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