

August 2011

UNCLASSIFIED
MEMORANDUM

TO: Department of State (CA/OCS/ACS/WHA)
FROM: AmConsulate Guayaquil
INFO: AmEmbassy Quito

TAGS: CASC
SUBJECT: DEATH: Disposition of Remains Report

REF: 7 FAM 260

The following information is submitted in accordance with the referenced requirements. Various area mortuaries were surveyed in order to compile this data. The Technical Health Inspector of the National Health Service (Inspector Tecnico de Sanidad, Servicio Sanitario Nacional) of each province controls the burial, embalming, preparation for shipment and exhumation of remains of deceased persons. Regulations regarding disposition of remains are contained in Decision No. 3463 of the Ministry of Public Health of Ecuador, dated July 3, 1974, Official Registry No. 597 published on July 17, 1974. Its scope is nationwide

Part I.

Republic of Ecuador

Part II. U.S. Consulate Information

U.S. Consulate General
9 de Octubre y Garcia Moreno, esq.
Guayaquil, Ecuador

Phone: (593-4) 232-3570

Fax: (593-4) 232-0904

After Hours Phone: (593-4) 232-1152

[Country Specific Information - Ecuador](#)

[Safety and Security: Register with the U.S. Consulate General in Guayaquil](#)

Part III. Profile of Religions of the Host Country and Religious Services available to visitors.

A. Country Profile: 95% of Ecuadorians are Roman Catholics. The Evangelical Missionary Union represents many Protestants (4% of the population) in Ecuador. Anglican churches in Ecuador belong to the Province 9 of the Episcopal Church in the United States. Other religions are present in small numbers: Eastern Orthodoxy, Mormonism, Buddhism, Judaism, and Islam.

B. Religious Activities for Visitors:

1. Roman Catholic Church:

- [Archdiocese of Guayaquil](#)
- [Archdiocese of Cuenca](#)

2. Jewish Community: <http://www.cje-ec.com/inter.asp?s=3&id=i>

3. Jehovah's Witnesses: Sucursal Guayaquil
Km. 23, 5 via a la Costa
Guayaquil
Telephone: (593-4) 273-8015
<http://www.watchtower.org/>

4. Mormon Church: [The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-day Saints](#)

5. Islam: Centro Islamico Al-Hijra de Guayaquil
P. Icaza 720, entre Boyacá y García Avilés, tercer piso
Guayaquil, Guayas, Ecuador
086245885
(593) 4 2565769
musulmanesenecuador@gmail.com
6. Protestant Church: <http://www.cgye.org/calendario-de-actividades/>

Part IV. Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services Available in Ecuador:

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Consulate in Guayaquil assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. Professional credentials and areas of expertise are provided directly by the funeral directors, morticians and other service providers.

To see a copy of Guayaquil's district funeral homes, please click [here](#).

Part V. Profile of Services available in Ecuador regarding preparation and shipment of remains:

A. Disposition of Remains (general)

Remains in Ecuador may be buried, cremated or exhumed. Family members need to select a funeral home in Guayaquil to help carry out their instructions. Funeral homes will also assist obtaining the appropriate paperwork in cases when the family wishes to ship the remains back to the U.S.

Morgue availability and capacity in cities other than Guayaquil and Quito is very limited. When a death occurs in a place where there are no morgue services available, the Ecuadorian National Police will issue a report called “levantamiento del cadaver”, after which a funeral home would be able to transport the remains to the closest city with morgue capabilities.

B. Embalming Facts

The average cost of embalming in Ecuador is \$400. Embalming can only be performed by medical personnel assigned to the morgue of the National Police. Funeral Homes are not accredited by local authorities to perform embalming

C. Requirements for deaths by infectious disease or under suspicious circumstances

Ecuadorian law provides that all deaths caused by non-natural or violent causes should be accompanied by an autopsy report, detailing the cause of the death.

D. Shipping

Cargo space availability and fares are independently established by the different carriers. When arranging shipment of remains to the U.S., it is of key value to make sure that there is space available to fit a coffin in a particular flight. Urns containing ashes are rather easily accommodated.

E. Local authorities responsible for licensing funeral directors and morticians

In order to legally operate in Ecuador, funeral homes must obtain permissions from the Ecuadorian Health Ministry, the Ecuadorian Fire Department, and the local City Hall.

F. Local authorities responsible for making findings regarding the cause of death and for issuing death local certificates

In order to register a death in Ecuador, the next of kin or funeral home representative must obtain, from the treating doctor at the hospital, or from the legal doctor who performed the autopsy, a document called “Informe Estadístico de Defunción”. This no-fee document, which indicates the deceased biographic data and cause of death, must be taken to the Civil Registry authorities for permanent filing and for issuance of the Ecuadorian death certificate.

Ecuadorian death certificates can only be issued by the authorities of the Civil Registry in the location where the death took place, or by the National Civil Registry in Quito, where all major life events are collected nationwide.

For further information about the Ecuadorian registration process, and to see the list of Registro Civil offices, please click [here](#).

1. MAXIMUM PERIOD BEFORE BURIAL

- a) When body embalmed: Law stipulates that burial be effected within 36 hours of death. In practice, disposition of embalmed remains sometimes remains pending up to six days. If putrefaction is present, burial must be immediate.
- b) When body is not embalmed: Burial must be made within 24 hours of death, according to local law. However, in practice, burial is sometimes delayed as much as 36 hours.

2. EMBALMING

Embalming is done by the Forensic Institute and private physicians. Funeral homes do not embalm. Accreditation for embalming must be authorized by the Jefatura Provincial de Salud (Province Public Health Director). The normal practice in Guayaquil, however, is not to embalm, but merely to inject the cadaver with formol.

3. CREMATION

The purchase price of a burial plot plus burial cost (coffin and funeral services)	\$ 2,900
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b) Estimated cost of preparation or remains for shipment:

Embalming (on average)	\$ 500
Preparation for shipment (packing, documents, transportation, etc)	600
Container (metal coffin and outer container case)	1,000
TOTAL	\$ 2,100

c) Estimated cost for cremation:

Cremation, urn and transportation to facilities	\$ 900
Cremation permits for exportation	400
TOTAL	\$ 1,300

(Average weight of urn containing ashes is 5.00 kilos)

d) Transportation (per kilo):

From Guayaquil to New York (East Coast)	\$ 5.76
From Guayaquil to Washington, D.C.	5.96
From Guayaquil to Seattle (West Coast)	7.46
From Guayaquil to Dallas	6.05
From Guayaquil to San Francisco	7.62
From Guayaquil to Los Angeles	7.42
From Guayaquil to Chicago (Mid West)	5.03
From Guayaquil to Miami	5.28

From Guayaquil to Puerto Rico 5.30

Additional costs to be included:

- Fuel \$0.40/Kg
- Security \$0.10/Kg (minimum fee \$15.00)
- Airway bill \$15.00

Estimated TOTAL Transportation Cost by Air

(Preparation and transportation based on a total shipment weight of 200 Kg, including additional costs)

From Guayaquil to New York (East Coast)	\$ 1,307
From Guayaquil to Washington, D.C.	\$1,347
From Guayaquil to Seattle (West Coast)	\$1,639
From Guayaquil to Dallas	\$1,365
From Guayaquil to San Francisco	\$ 1,679
From Guayaquil to Los Angeles	\$ 1,639
From Guayaquil to Chicago (Mid West)	\$ 1,161
From Guayaquil to Miami	\$1,211
From Guayaquil to Puerto Rico	\$1,215

Note: When death occurs in the interior of Ecuador, the remains may be transferred to Guayaquil for preparation and shipment. Transportation is done by ambulance or by air. Transportation costs from the major cities of our Consular District to Guayaquil are \$600 on average.

7. EXHUMATION AND SHIPMENT

Regulations governing exhumation of remains state it may be done only after a minimum period of four years.

Estimated cost of disinterment and shipment:

- Preparation of remains for shipment and paperwork \$550.00
- Coffin and outer container \$450.00
- Plus cost of transportation
(estimated weight of container approximately 50 Kg)

8. AUTOPSIES:

Ecuadorian law provides that all deaths caused by non-natural causes should be accompanied by an autopsy report, detailing the cause of the death.

In Ecuador, autopsies can only be performed by the forensic department of the Ecuadorian National Police.

9. LOCAL CUSTOMS REGARDING FUNERALS, DISPOSITION OF REMAINS, MOURNING, MEMORIAL SERVICES

In the event that no family member is present in Ecuador, the family member who will be responsible for making the arrangements should sign an authorization letter for the funeral home to carry out the family's instructions.

This letter is required by the Ecuadorian officials to process all of the required paperwork, and should be completed in English and in Spanish. The letter must be accompanied by the copy of the family member's id. To see a sample of an authorization letter click [here](#).

CONS:ABeck:kma

CLEARANCE: CONS: RPackowitz