

MERRIMAN FUNERAL HOMES INCORPORATED PRESENTATION
FOR THE ANNUAL DISPOSITION OF REMAINS REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2014
FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION IN GEORGETOWN,
GUYANA

Question 1: Maximum Period before Burial?

- (1) Local and national laws do not specify a maximum period before burial whether a body is embalmed or not.

Question 2: Embalming?

- (2) Merriman Funeral Homes provides full service modern Vascular and Cavity Embalming, Facial Reconstruction along with General Restorative Art. New cutting edge technology Embalming Equipment was procured in 2013.

Our Embalmer Mr. Claude Merriman is a graduate of, or accredited by:

- Fiorello H LaGuardia Community College Of The City University of New York with an Associate of Applied Science in Mortuary Science (1988).
- Diploma in Funeral Service From American Academy McAllister Institute Of Funeral Service with a Mu Sigma Alpha Award, (1988).
- USA National Board Certified in Funeral Service, (1988).
- Canadian licensed in the Province of Ontario, (1990 to Present).
- Member of the British Institute of Embalmers, (1993 to Present).
- The Prestigious Fountain National Academy of Professional Embalming Skills (2011)
- The American Society of Embalmers (2011 to Present)
- Various Embalming Skills and Funeral Service Seminars (1988 - 2014)

Embalming is done at both of our facilities, situated at 55 Lime & Bent Streets Georgetown, Demerara and Lot 42 Stanleytown, New Amsterdam, Berbice.

Complications are reduced, the shorter the interval between death and embalming.

Question 3: Cremation:

- (3) Cremations are permitted under both local and national laws. A cause of death certificate from two medical practitioners and application to the Ministry of Health and Police Notification are required, before cremations can be performed.

Cremations are conducted at specified locations on the Foreshore of the Atlantic Ocean on a wooden and coconut shell pyre.

Question 4: Caskets and Containers?

- (4) Imported Metal and Wood caskets, containers, and sealers along with locally made wood caskets, coffins, metal containers and sealers, all meet the requirements for exportation. If not singularly, in combination.

Question 5: Exportation of Remains

The procedure and documentation involved in the exportation of ashes and human remains are more geared to satisfying the criteria of the receiving country.

The basic local and national regulations for the Exportation of Human Remains, require the obtaining of certified copies of death, a Port Health Officer examination and report, an application to the Ministry of Health for the relevant permits and letters, the processing of the Customs C72 form and Notification to the Drug Enforcement Unit and finally to Liaise with the Airlines and Consignee.

The USA Consular Section requires the application for the issuance of a Consular Mortuary Certificate, this is a Free Service to Citizens of the United States of America and a Paid Service to all other Applicants. a Consular officer also usually attends to observe the Sealing of the Shipping Package after having verified the pertinent shipping permits and documents

Question 6: Costs?

The Basic Exportation Package for Human Remains Landed at JFK or MIA would start at US\$9,100:00 in a Shipping case, or US\$9,600:00 is a Standard Local Wood Casket.

The other variables that would impact final cost would be: Port of Final Destination, Non Basic Package Casket Selection, Condition and Size of Human Remains, and other Items or Services Requested by Family.

Local costs: Inexpensive (Coffin) -	US\$1270.00 and upwards
Mid-Range (Local Casket) -	US\$2400.00 and upwards
Expensive (Metal Casket) -	US\$5600.00 and upwards

Question 7: Exhumation and Shipment

The laws and regulations regarding the disinterment and shipment to the United States of America requires an application to a magistrate requesting permission to exhume, stating reasons.

Applications are also required to the Mayor and City Council's Medical Officer, the cemetery's Sextant, Ministry of Health and Customs. A /death certificate, an embalming certificate, if applicable Port Health Officer examination and report are also required.

There are so many variables to exhumation that costs are allocated for each individual case.

Question 8: Remarks?

Families of US citizens who die in Guyana are not required to travel to Guyana to arrange their repatriation. Merriman Funeral Homes Inc. on receipt of the necessary authorizations and payment, will proceed with the repatriation as per the family's instruction.

A full funeral service and visitation is available in Guyana prior to the Repatriation of a Human Remains or ashes.

Merriman Funeral Homes Inc. has two full service facilities one in Berbice and one in Demerara.

Merriman Funeral Homes provides professional services for both infectious and non-infectious cases.

Families are given an option of shipping receptacles to meet their funeral and financial requirements.

Payment can be made in Cash either by United States of America Dollars, or in Guyana Dollars converted at the Bank of Nova Scotia Cambio's Selling rate on the Day of the Transaction, or by Wire Transfer to a US Dollar Account at The Bank of Nova Scotia in Guyana. (Please Note all wire transfer and bank charges are to be covered by the family.)

Merriman Funeral Homes can make full travel arrangements to any funeral home or trade service in any state in the USA.

As part of the professional services telephone calls and/or emails and /or faxes are made to the Airline and to the Receiving Funeral Home confirming Travel Itinerary and Transmitting all pertinent documents and information.

Autopsies are required of any decedent who cause of death is in doubt or who dies from homicide, suicide, accident, misadventure, sudden death or is a ward of the state in a public institution for example, a prison, or a mental institution.

A relative or a representative is required to attend the autopsy for the purposes of identification of the Human Remains.

Withstanding some weak efforts by the Central Board of Health / The Ministry of Health, the Funeral Industry in Guyana is NOT REGULATED, thus families are left to their own devices to ascertain the Professional Training and Skill Level of the Funeral Service Provider. This has resulted in families receiving their Human Remains in the USA in a condition that is most unsatisfactory and not conducive for an open casket visitation and service.

Report Prepared by
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