

## **DISPOSITION OF REMAINS REPORT- June 2016**

The following information is submitted in accordance with requirements to provide current data on Cuban law on the disposition of remains.

### **I. Maximum Period Before Burial**

Cuban national policy set by the Ministry of Public Health requires burial within 24-30 hours after death if body is not embalmed. In practice, however, the remains of foreigners not claimed within 30 hours are often embalmed on the orders of the local Public Health officer and maintained in cold storage until the next of kin (NOK) can be located and instructions obtained. If remains are embalmed, the local Public Health representative will determine the time limit within which the body should be buried.

### **II. Embalming**

Embalming facilities exist and bodies must be either embalmed or buried within 30 hours after death. In cases involving foreigners, the preparation of the remains is almost invariably done by the Funeraria de Calzada y K in Havana.

### **III. Cremation**

Local laws permit cremation and facilities exist in Havana.

### **IV. Caskets and Containers**

Caskets and containers for local burial or for the export of remains are available locally. For local burial, a cloth-lined wood casket is used. Remains to be exported are placed in a metallic casket. A wooden shipping case is provided for transport. Varnished wooden boxes are provided for the shipment of ashes.

- Metallic casket - (CUC 885.00)
- Wooden casket – (CUC 392.50)
- Wooden shipping case - (CUC 115.00)

### **V. Exportation of Remains**

Unless the person was covered by the Cuban travel insurance, in which case Asistur Company will pay for all the services, the U.S. Embassy strongly recommends that NOK wire a minimum of \$5,000 USD to the Department of State to cover all costs in exporting remains to the United States.

The Department of State and the U.S. Embassy will assist the family in wiring money and will return all unused funds upon completion of the case. Please note the following:

- Remains must be embalmed (except in cases of cremation).
- Remains must be enclosed in a hermetically sealed metallic container.
- The following documents must accompany the remains in shipment:

For cadavers:

- Transportation authorization from the Ministry of Public Health.
- Medical Report of Death, and Embalming Report.
- Appropriate authentication of local documents for use in the U.S.

For ashes:

- Transportation authorization from the Ministry of Public Health.
- Medical Report of Death, and Embalming Report.
- Appropriate authentication of local documents for use in the U.S.
- Cremation certificate.

## VI. Costs

Following is an estimate for the cost of services that are usually involved in cases of shipping of remains.

- Legal Medicine Institute      \$1,500.00 CUC (Approx)
- Funeral Home                      \$1,400.00 CUC (Approx)
- Airlines                              \$1,300.00 CUC (Approx)
  
- Local interment without embalming must be arranged on a case-by-case basis and the exact price obtained through Funeraria Calzada y K, Vedado; Phone 537 835 3584. The cost is approximately \$225.00 CUC

Autopsy (depends on weight of cadaver):

- Autopsy more than 70 Kgs                      CUC 950.00
- Autopsy between 15 and 70 Kgs              CUC 700.00
- Autopsy less than 15 Kgs.                      CUC 450.00
- Autopsy more than 70 Kgs (AIDS)            CUC 1350.00
- Autopsy between 15 and 70 Kgs (AIDS)    CUC 1100.00

- Autopsy less than 15 Kgs (AIDS) CUC 850.00

Embalming

- Embalming more than 70 Kgs CUC 900.00
- Embalming between 15 and 70 Kgs CUC 700.00
- Embalming less than 15 Kgs. CUC 500.00

Cremation and preparation of ashes for shipping (including cremation, sealing, documentation, and varnished wood box)

- Cremation of a cadaver .....CUC 1130.00
- Cremation of remains .....CUC 700.00

Airfreight

- There are no direct flights from Cuba to the U.S that transport remains, therefore remains need to be transported through a third country such as Mexico or Canada.
- The cost for airfreight is calculated on a case by case basis.

**VII. Exhumation and Shipment**

Coordination of the exhumation is made through Funeraria Calzada y K, Vedado, Havana.

- Exhumation of a decayed corpse..... CUC 200.00
- Corpse Exhumation ..... CUC 35.00
- Documentation..... CUC 30.00
- Hermetic sealing, zinc-lined container for shipment (if needed due to length of time since first interred)..... CUC 300.00
- For air freight..... (See note above)

**VIII. Remarks**

If the cemetery to be used is not in Havana, a fee of one CUC for each km. traveled from the Havana funeral home will apply in transporting remains.

If the death occurs outside of Havana, a fee of one CUC for each km. traveled from the location of death to the Havana funeral home will apply in transporting remains.