



United States Government
CONSULAR SECTION, LAHORE
memorandum

Date: April 30, 2013

To: Department of State - CA/OCS/ACS/NESCA

From: U.S. Consulate Lahore

Tags: CASC

Subject: DEATH: Disposition of Remains

Ref: 7 FAM 260

The following information is submitted in accordance with referenced requirements. Various area mortuaries were surveyed in order to compile this data. The laws cited are from the national law of Pakistan under the Medical Jurisprudence Law section and the Punjab Health Care Act. Hospitals are allowed to offer mortuary services, however Government hospital's mortuaries have limited space available and are mostly overcrowded and not properly maintained.

Part I. Pakistan

Part II. U.S. Consulate Information

U.S. Consulate Lahore

Address: 50 Shahrah-e-Abdul Hameed Bin Badees (Old Empress Road)

Phone: (+92) 42-3603-4000

Fax: (+92) 42-3603-4212

After Hours Phone: (+92) 42-3603-4000

Consular Information Sheet: http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/cis_pa_tw/cis/cis_992.html

Register With the U.S. Embassy: <https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/>

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

Country Profile: Host Country Religions

Pakistan's religious homogeneity is an important unifying factor. Pakistan is 97% Muslim. Members of the Sunni sect, 77%, constitute the largest number of the Muslims in Pakistan, whereas Shia Muslims constitute 20% and others 3% of the total Muslim population. Religious minorities are free to practice their faiths, but proselytizing is subject to restrictions. Minority religions include Christians (1.6 million, 80% of whom live in Punjab), Hindus (1.6 million, 80% of whom live in Sindh), and Parsis (7,000, most of whom live in Karachi).

Religious Activities for Visitors:

English-speaking religious organizations representing the following are found in Pakistan: Anglican, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Protestant International Church, Roman Catholic, and Seventh-day Adventist. Meetings may be informal gatherings in homes as opposed to in a building set aside for the organization.

Part IV. Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services Available in the Host Country

There are no funeral homes as such operating in Pakistan, though embalming, storing, exportation of remains, burial, and limited cremation services are available.

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Consulate, Lahore, Pakistan 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.

Mortuary and Embalming Service in Lahore:

Name and Address	Telephone Numbers	Service Information
Aadil Hospital Address: Main Blvd., Defense Housing Authority, Lahore Cantt	Mr. Fahdel Sheikh Phone: +92 42 111-223-454; +92 300 8468763 Website: http://www.aadilhospital.com/	Remains should be embalmed within 24 hours after death. Services available: body storage, bathing, coffin services, customization for all religions, embalming, overseas transportation, grave arrangements, evacuation of the dead, receipt and dispatch of body Cost: \$2500-\$3000
The King Edward Medical College, Lahore Address: Mayo Hospital Rd., Lahore	On duty Professor of Forensics Science Department Phone: +92 42 921114554	Remains should be embalmed within 24 hours after death. Service available: Autopsy, embalming, storage Cost: No official fee but some unseen costs - \$200

Part V. Profile of services available in the host country regarding preparation and shipment of remains

a. **Disposition of Remains (general):** There is very limited capacity of refrigerated morgues and mortuary professionals in Pakistan due to the local custom of burying as soon after death as possible. Embalming is available in Lahore, but the quality of embalming is not up to the general standards in the U.S. An autopsy may or may not be required by law depending on the circumstances of the death. However, an autopsy can be requested through the Consulate.

b. Specific facts relating to embalming, cremation, caskets, exportation, documentation requirements, preparation, shipment, and exhumation:

The next of kin or legal representative has five options regarding the disposition of their loved one's remains. The costs for all options will vary depending on the type of disposition, transportation, quality of caskets or containers, etc.:

1. Preparation and local interment
2. Embalming and local interment
3. Embalming in Pakistan and repatriation of remains to the U.S.
4. Cremation and disposition in Pakistan
5. Cremation in Pakistan and disposition in the U.S.

c. **Unique Circumstances:** If the cause of death is contagious disease, the District Health Officer (DHO) of the City District Lahore may prescribe a shorter period for burial services. Professional repatriation services must be sought to hermetically seal the coffin.

If a death takes place under suspicious circumstances and the police are actively investigating, the autopsy procedure could take several weeks.

d. **Shipping – options for in-country transportation (trains, truck, air, boat, etc.), reliability, quality and ease of in-country shipping; options for international shipping:** If death occurs outside Lahore, the remains may be transferred to Lahore for preparation. The most reliable in-country transportation is by ambulance, either with the nationwide non-governmental organization, Edhi, or a private company.

The following major airlines have daily flights from Pakistan to the U.S.:

- PIA
- Qatar
- Etihad
- Emirates
- Kuwait
- Saudi Airlines

NOTE: There are no direct flights from Pakistan to the U.S.

e. **Local authorities responsible for licensing funeral directors and morticians:** There are no funeral homes or funeral directors in Pakistan. Usually family/friends of deceased, religious or charitable organizations or mortuary staff provide services and assist the bereaved family. There

is no system/concept of funeral directors/licensing in Pakistan. Morticians are often government servants or employed in private hospitals.

f. Local authorities responsible for making findings regarding the cause of death and for issuing death local certificates: In case the death takes place in the hospital, the death certificate is issued based on this. The Town Municipal Authority (TMA)/Union Council issues the NADRA death certificate and keeps the record of death. In addition, the Consulate may issue a death certificate on the basis of the above.

For medico-legal cases, an additional requirement for an autopsy is mandatory, followed by issuance of a death certificate and autopsy report.

(1) Maximum period before burial:

- (a) There is no prescribed period when the body is embalmed and kept in a mortuary at controlled temperature.
- (b) Burial customarily takes place within 24 hours of death, if the body is not embalmed, but should be no longer than 72 hours. If the cause of death is contagious disease, the District Health Officer (DHO) of the City District Lahore may prescribe a shorter period.
- (c) Bodies are taken to a local graveyard and buried per local custom, without the use of a funeral home. Only males go to the graveside to pay their respects, and they later join the female family members in the home to mourn together.

(2) Embalming:

Embalming facilities exist. Aadil Hospital, Lahore (+92 42 111-223-454; +92 300 8468763) and King Edward Medical College, Lahore (+92 42 921114554) have the facilities of embalming services. A body must be embalmed, when possible, within 24 hours of death. Quality of embalming is not up to standards typically expected in the U.S. Embalming in Pakistan is not a comprehensive process involving surgery and sticking from head to toe. Embalmers only use chemical preservative injected in the body to slow the decomposition process.

(3) Cremation:

Local laws permit cremation, on the request of the next of kin. However, facilities are limited, and it may be difficult to arrange. Cremation facilities exist, though the fuel used is wood and no electrical cremation is available. Only one licensed cremation site at Nankana Sahib exists which operates under District Coordination Officer (DCO), Evacuee Trust and Sikh Gurdwara Nankana Sahib typically known as “Shamshaan Ghaat”. Small bones and ashes can be collected from them on the fifth day after cremation.

(4) Casket and containers:

Only two containers are required for shipment of human remains outside of Pakistan. The embalmed body must be packed in an inner zinc lined casing with a glass window. This is sprayed with preservative gas and made airtight. The box is hermetically-sealed, and no air can flow in or out of the box. No odor should emit from the box as per International Association of Air Traffic Authority (IAATA) rules. This sealed zinc coffin box is then placed inside a wooden coffin box and nailed/sealed. The wooden outer box must be secured with a strong base of wooden planks and sealed with metal loops. In addition, the Customs & Immigration team puts an embossed seal on the box. A set of original documents in a pouch are affixed on the coffin box. No personal items can be put inside the coffin box. In Lahore, Aadil Hospital and some local churches provide all types of caskets for local/foreign burial or repatriation of human remains.

(5) Exportation of Remains - Local Requirements:

(a) Human remains:

- i) Official Death Certificate
- ii) Death Certificate from attending physician or hospital (if possible)
- iii) Doctor's or Funeral Director's Embalming Certificate
- iv) Packing certificate: The repatriation company/hospital does the packing of the casket and issues a certificate stating that the casket was properly packed.
- v) Authorization letter from area police station
- vi) Passport of deceased U.S. citizen for immigration exit stamp/defaced
- vii) Certificate of death in case death occurs at home
- viii) Autopsy report in case of medico-legal cases
- ix) Police release to family/hospital for repatriation (medico-legal cases only)

(b) Ashes:

- i) Official Death Certificate
- ii) Cremation Certificate
- iii) Authorization letter from area police station/no objection certificate
- iv) Photos of deceased
- v) Embassy's permission for sending ashes overseas

(6) Exhumation and Shipment:

The exhumation of a dead body in Pakistan is a lengthy and potentially difficult process. Due to religious and cultural influence, authorities are reluctant to allow exhumation of a dead body. The exhumation of a dead body, however, is a legal right and permissible by the Pakistan Penal Court (Law). The figure in authority is the Magistrate Grade 30 in Civil Courts, who appoints the local commission to identify, satisfy and carry out in their supervision the process of exhumation, or the District Health Officer (DHO) who would need a good reason to allow the exhumation to take place in his jurisdiction.

The exhumation is a sensitive and a huge undertaking. The support of local community, legal services, police, permission from Magistrate, permission by immediate family, permission by Embassy, and other documentary formalities have to be fulfilled. Once the body is exhumed, the rest of the procedure is the same for any foreign repatriation, since the human remains are handed over to the family/person appointed by the court of repatriation.

(7) Costs: (Approximate minimum)

(a) Local burial / Cremation:

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|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| i) Local burial | \$ 500 |
| ii) Cremation and disposal of ashes | \$ 500-\$800 |
- Cremated body: If cremation is done in Pakistan, and the collected ashes need to be sent to the family, only courier charges would apply. Alternatively, the cremation centre would hand over the ashes by hand to embassy staff/representative or any family member, if present in the country.

(b) Exhumation of deceased \$1800-\$2500

(c) Repatriation of human remains:

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|---|--------------|
| i) Embalming | \$500 |
| ii) Mortuary storage | \$50 per day |
| iii) Bathing & coffin/ dressing up of deceased | \$50-\$150 |
| iv) Religious prayer | no charges |
| v) X-ray/CT Scanning of deceased | \$50 |
| (to ascertain no foreign body inside cadaver) | |
| vi) Hospital's service charges | \$300 |
| vii) Custom Clearance/Misc charges | \$150 |
| viii) Packing & sealing | \$50 |
| ix) Airtight zinc lined wooden box | \$300-\$800 |
| x) Airway bill charges at actual by airline cargo company | |

(d) Freight charges:

*(Approximate dimensions and weights for human remains are:
 Embalmed - Approximately 500 lbs. 7'4" x 3' x 2'
 Cremated - Approximately 10 lbs. 15" x 12" x 12"
 1 Kg = 2.2 lbs., M³ = 35 Cubic feet = 210 lbs. approx.)*

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|---|------------|
| (i) Shipment of remains by air: airway bill | |
| Lahore / New York | \$6 per kg |
| Lahore / Chicago | \$8 per kg |
| Lahore / San Francisco | \$9 per kg |

Note: Provide complete name, contact numbers, and e-mail address, postal address of the person who will be receiving the

remains in the U.S. The airline will contact that person for confirmation prior to shipment.

(ii) Shipment of remains by sea:
Lahore / New York \$10,500.00

(iii) Shipment of ashes by APO: \$50.00

(e) If death occurs outside of Lahore, remains may be transferred to Lahore for preparation.

Transportation cost of human remains from various cities to Lahore:

City	Price est., Edhi (nationwide NGO)	Price est., private transport companies
Faisalabad	\$50	\$100
Multan	\$80	\$130
Sahiwal	\$50	\$100
Sadiqabad	\$150	\$220

cc: CONS - AmEmbassy Islamabad