

## Repatriating a Deceased U.S. Citizen from Saudi Arabia

When an American citizen dies in Saudi Arabia, the employer (or sponsor) is responsible for handling the administrative arrangements on behalf of the next of kin. To facilitate the repatriation of the remains, which is required for non-Muslims, **the sponsor will need to obtain all the appropriate documentation required by the Saudi authorities and airlines.**

The procedure is as follows:

1. Upon receipt of police permission, the hospital will transport the remains to the morgue at Dammam Central Hospital.
2. The police will provide the sponsor with 5 envelopes addressed to the morgue, the Jawazat Passport Office for the exit visa, the airport cargo office and the Saudi Customs Office.

**The sponsor will then:**

3. Obtain from the hospital the Death Notification and pass it to the police to endorse it to the Ministry of Health and issue the primary death report.
4. Obtain A Report of Death issued by the Saudi Ministry of Health and a Saudi Death Certificate issued by the Ministry of Interior, Civil Status Department.
5. Coordinate with a travel agency for travel arrangements to make reservations and arrangements to transport the remains.
6. Obtain the final exit visa for the remains from the passport office.
7. Coordinate with the Dammam Central Morgue to check if all the paper work is complete and notify them of the flight itinerary. At that final stage the Morgue at Dammam Central Hospital will issue the Burial Permit (that we translate at the Consulate as it will be given at the last hour before the repatriation) and the Embalming Certificate that is provided in English and arabic.
8. The sponsor brings the original documents (Report of Death, Saudi Death Certificate) plus translation of these documents to the Consulate in order to issue the Consular Mortuary Certificate. The Consular Mortuary Certificate must accompany all remains to clear the U.S. Customs.

The Consulate will attach a copy of all the above documents to the Mortuary Certificate and will issue the necessary number of copies as per the flight itinerary.

These copies are requested by the cargo section of the airport to receive the body no less than six hours before the departure date. Please note that it is advisable to always provide the Consulate with the above documents as they become available to you.

The Consulate will also prepare the Report of Death of an American Citizen, which serves as the death certificate for U.S. legal purposes.

9. One (1) set of these documents should be given to the escort and another should be affixed to the casket.