

May 27, 2011

AmConsul Calgary

DEATHS: Disposition of Remains
(Province of Manitoba)

Department of State - CA/OCS/ACS/WHA

Ref: 7 FAM 260

The Consulate General Calgary submits herewith a revised report on local regulations, prices, etc., regarding Disposition of Remains for the Province of Manitoba.

1. **Maximum Period before Burial**

When death has been due to communicable diseases, such as bubonic plague, cholera, diphtheria, Scarlet fever, typhoid fever, typhus or smallpox, burial must take place within 36 hours following death. This period may be extended, however, by obtaining written permission of the local Medical Officer of Health. Such permission will only be granted if all body orifices have been blocked with absorbent cotton and the body has been embalmed or enclosed in a metal or metallined coffin. There are no other regulations requiring burial within a specific period of time. Bodies may be stored in receiving vaults for any period of time, provided no offensive environment is created.

2. **Embalming**

All the major cities and towns in the district have facilities for embalming. Remains must be embalmed if shipped by common carrier. If embalming is performed, it must be undertaken by a person who holds a valid Embalmer's License issued by the Board of Administration under the Embalmers and Funeral Directors Act, Province of Manitoba.

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3. **Cremation**

There are nine crematoriums in Winnipeg, one in Portage la Prairie, one in Flin Flon, one in Brandon, one in Carman, one in Selkirk, one in Minnedosa, one in Beausejour, one in Swan River, and one in Dauphin, for a total of 18 in the province. Remains may be cremated by prior request of the deceased, or at the request of the immediate family. Immediate family preference takes precedence. Prior to cremation, a registration of death and a burial permit must be obtained from attending physician and the local registrar for vital statistics. Authorization for cremation must be signed by next of kin or legally responsible person. Cremation must be undertaken in accordance with the Cemeteries Act and Regulations respecting the establishment, operation and Licensing of Crematoriums.

4. **Disinterment**

Disinterment may be ordered by a coroner or a court having jurisdiction. Normally the Local Board of Health must also be satisfied that the body or the coffin may not be in such a state of decomposition as would be offensive to those persons conducting the disinterment. Disinterment certificates must be signed by the Chief Medical Health Officer. Before the certificate can be issued, immediate family members must submit a request in writing to the Division of Vital Statistics.

5. **Caskets and Containers**

When the remains of a deceased person are to be transported out of the country or within the country, the remains are placed in metal, wooden or cardboard casket which are capable of being hermetically sealed and satisfy requirements prevalent throughout the province. Such containers are readily available locally.

6. **Exportation of Remains**

A burial permit issued by the Provincial Registrar of Vital Statistics is necessary to export either a body or cremated remains. The cause of death must be stated on the certificate issued by the Medical Examiner. The funeral home usually handles in obtaining the required certificates. A body does not necessarily have to be embalmed if it is going to be transported within Manitoba. The body must be embalmed if it is going to be transported to the United States via the Funeral Company's hearse or by common carrier from origin to destination. Most airlines now provide a heavy duty security pouch in lieu of the former wooden box in which the casket was previously carried; these usually are rented from the airlines by the funeral home. If a body is going to be shipped to the United States, the standards of the receiving state must be complied with.

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7. Costs

A. Burial, Cremation:

Funeral costs vary considerably. An average cost for a traditional funeral would be approximately US\$4931, depending upon the type of casket chosen and other services provided. These charges are allinclusive, that is, the transport of the body locally, all documentation, services by a clergyman etc. They do not include a caskets, cemetery costs or disbursement items such as newspaper notices, flowers, musicians, catering, or transportation outside the immediate area (see note below). A cemetery plot, in perpetuity, can be obtained in Winnipeg for about US\$1331, plus opening and closing fee of US\$646. The cremation cost in Winnipeg is approximately US\$2169 for an adult person and US\$296 for children under the age 12 but the costs for children may be eliminated in some cases. Most funeral homes will not charge for a child under 1 year of age. Costs for keeping the cremated remains of a deceased person at crematoriums vary with the length of time that they are to be kept. Usually there is no charge for keeping the cremated remains of a deceased person for burial for the first 60 days. After 60 days, the fee averages about US\$24 per month or US\$296 per year. Fees for permanent storage are about US\$395. Urns for the storage of the cremated remains cost from US\$59- 2958. The Province of Manitoba can grant approximately US\$1835 for funeral/burial expenses and US\$1512 for cremation in cases where individuals die leaving no family or estate.

B. Shipment:

Preparation of the remains by a funeral home for shipment to U.S. for burial is approximately US\$1282. A reduction in costs is possible by having a funeral home in the United States make the arrangements with the Canadian funeral home. Bodies and ashes may be shipped by air to the United States using the services of one of several airlines operating between Winnipeg and various cities in the United States. The following costs and charges for shipment from Winnipeg are based on a body plus casket weighing 330 lbs. (150 kg) and also the dimensions of the casket.

<u>FINAL</u> <u>DESTINATION</u>	<u>AIRLINE</u>	<u>COST IN U.S.</u> <u>FUNDS</u>
Boston	Air Canada	\$603.00
Chicago	Air Canada	\$513.00
Cleveland	Air Canada	\$513.00
Miami	Air Canada	\$663.00
New York City	Air Canada	\$603.00
San Francisco	Air Canada	\$663.00
Los Angeles	Air Canada	\$663.00
Seattle	Air Canada	\$663.00
Denver	Air Canada/NW Airlines	\$603.00
Houston	Air Canada/NW Airlines	\$603.00

Cremated remains are usually sent by weight at the normal airfreight rate.

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8. **REMARKS:**

1. Charges shown are based on the exchange rate as of May 27, 2011. U.S. \$1.00 equals to Canadian \$1.00.
2. All fees are approximate.
3. Costs do not include transportation from remote areas to the nearest funeral home.
4. There will be additional 5% GST (Goods & Services Tax) on all of the services provided.