

Updated on June, 2013

Part I.

Name of Country - Georgia

Part II. U.S. Embassy Information

U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi, Georgia

11 George Balanchine Street, 0131

Phone: (995 32) 227 70 00; Consular section (995 32) 227 77 24

After Hours Phone: (995 32) 227 70 00

[Consular Information Sheet](#)

[Enroll with the U.S. Embassy](#)

Part III. Major Religions

Christian, Muslim, Jewish

Part IV. Funeral Home

Hermes

Didgori Street, Village Dighomi, Tbilisi

Tel: (995 32) 2212184, (995 32) 2212584

Website: <http://www.hermes.ge/>

Part IV. Disposition of Remains

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy Consular section in Tbilisi, Georgia assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Professional credentials and areas of expertise are provided directly by the funeral directors, morticians and other service providers.

All the procedures connected with the preparation of remains can be carried out during normal business hours. Some procedures, such as coordination with local authorities, can be carried out at any time.

When a U.S. citizen dies in Georgia, regardless of the cause of death, an “operative group” consisting of an investigator from the regional procurator’s office, an investigator from the regional police department, an expert criminologist from the local police department, and a forensic expert from a hospital, is summoned to the place of death. The regional police department is responsible for summoning the operative group as well as for notifying the Embassy of the death.

Updated on June, 2013

After examining the remains at the place of death, the group issues a report for the Prosecutor's office, which includes a detailed description of the cause of death, three photos of the deceased, and affidavits by two witnesses. The group also issues a certificate for a forensic bureau to perform an autopsy. The remains are then taken to the Forensic Medical Department of the National Forensic Bureau by ambulance. There are no fees for these services.

The Department of State warns U.S. citizens against travel to the occupied regions of South Ossetia, in north-central Georgia, and Abkhazia, in northwest Georgia. These regions are not under the control of the central government following civil wars in the early 1990s, and the conflict with Russia in August 2008. The restricted access of U.S. officials to Abkhazia and South Ossetia significantly limits the ability of the U.S. government to assist U.S. citizens in these regions, even in emergencies or should a death occur there.

Contact Information:

Forensic Medical Department of the National Forensic Bureau
D. Aghmashenebeli Alley 10th; Tbilisi
Tel: (995 32) 225 8484
<http://www.forensics.ge/>

B. AUTOPSY

An autopsy is usually required when any foreign citizen dies in Georgia.

C. MORGUE

If a U.S. citizen dies in Tbilisi, the remains will normally be taken to the morgue at the Forensic Medical Department of the National Forensic Bureau. The best cold storage facilities in Georgia are available there. The National Forensic Bureau has regional branches of the Forensic Medical Department throughout the country. There is no fee for these storage facilities.

Storage facilities are also located at the following Medical Institutions. The current charge for storage of remains at the following institutions is GEL25 (\$15) per day.

Pathologic Anatomy Department, Republican Hospital, I floor 29
Vazha-Pshavela Ave., Tbilisi
Tel: (995 32)2311642

Iashvili Hospital
2/6 Lubliana Street; Tbilisi
Tel: (995 32)2520523

D. DISPOSITION OF REMAINS

(1) Maximum Period Before Burial

Updated on June, 2013

Under Georgian customary law, the maximum period of time permitted between death and burial is ten days. Remains can be preserved at a morgue's cold storage facilities and/or be embalmed regardless of whether they will be buried in Georgia or will be repatriated to the United States.

(2) Embalming

It is preferable that embalming be performed within 10 hours of death. Embalming is performed upon request and after paying the appropriate fee at the forensic center or the morgue. Embalming costs approximately GEL 120 (\$75). If necessary, a certificate can be provided to confirm that the remains have been embalmed. Waiting longer than 10 hours to make this request runs the risk that local authorities may be able to meet the request.

(3) Cremation

Cremations are not performed in Georgia; the only options for disposition of remains are local burial or repatriation to the United States.

(4) Caskets and Containers

The funeral service firm Hermes can provide local burial services. The price options, which are all-inclusive (burial plot, casket, etc.), range from \$400 to \$700.

Contact information:

Hermes
Didgori Street, Village Dighomi, Tbilisi
Tel: (995 32) 2212184, (995 32) 2212584

(5) Repatriation of Remains

For repatriating remains to the United States, it is necessary to have the remains prepared for shipment, to make shipping arrangements with an airline, and to obtain certain documents. The funeral service firm Hermes can provide a zinc coffin and wooden packing crate for shipping the remains, prepare all the necessary documents required for the Georgian Customs at a total cost of 1600GEL (1000USD).

Contact information:

Hermes
Didgori Street, Village Dighomi, Tbilisi
Tel: (995 32) 2212184, (995 32) 2212584

Georgian customs authorities require the following documents for repatriation of remains:

- 1. Physician's Report of Death**
- 2. Death Certificate**

Updated on June, 2013

3. Sanitary Epidemic Station certificate

4. Customs Department Report

5. Transportation Bill

Physician's Report of Death

A Physician's Report of Death is issued by the forensic examiner at the morgue, stating the results of an autopsy, if performed, and whether or not the body has any infectious disease.

Death Certificate

Death Certificate is issued by the Regional Branch of Civil Registry Agency of the Ministry of Justice.

Civil Registry Agency Tbilisi Branch

House of Justice

Address: Davit Aghmashenebeli Avenue 89/24; Tbilisi

Tel: (995 32) 2405 405

<http://psh.gov.ge/>

Sanitary Epidemic Certificate

A Sanitary Epidemic Certificate is issued on the basis of physician's report, the death certificate and a request letter issued by the U.S. Embassy. The Sanitary Epidemic Certificate is issued by Hermes funeral service. There is no fee for the certificate.

Customs Department Report

The Customs Department Report is issued on the basis of an examination carried out at the morgue by a representative of the Customs Department and the doctor who issued the Physician's Report of Death. After the examination, the casket must be sealed in the presence of the Customs Department representative. On the basis of the Customs Department Report, other required paperwork and the statement of the U.S. Embassy is addressed to Tbilisi Customs Department. The Customs Department will issue an Exit permit for the remains at the Tbilisi Airport.

Transportation Bill

An airline transportation bill can be obtained through the firms Globalink or Lasare LTD, which can arrange for the remains to be moved from the morgue to the airport, as well as for Customs clearance and, if necessary, airport storage.

Contact Information:

Globalink

14-A Shartava Street

2nd Floor, Suite 7

Tbilisi, 0160 Georgia

Tel: (995 32) 2372591, (995 32) 2373450 Ext: 108

Fax: (995 32) 22439002

Updated on June, 2013

Lasare LTD

Tbilisi International Airport

Tel: (995 32) 2450330; (995 32) 2450880

SHIPMENT INFORMATION

Lufthansa and Turkish Airlines can ship remains to the United States via Europe. The price varies from \$10 to \$15 per kilo (aprox 2.2 lbs). Because of the weight of the zinc coffin and packing crate, the remains, as prepared for the shipment, may weight up to 200 kilos (approx 440 in lbs).

**All documents need to be translated and notarized.*

**Any Georgian public document that is intended to be used in the U.S. should be endorsed with an Apostille at the Civil Registry Agency of the Ministry of Justice (see above for contact information).*