

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
U.S. Embassy, Islamabad



Unclassified Memorandum

Date: April 25, 2013

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

From: Consular Section, U.S. Embassy Islamabad

Tags: CASC

Subject: DEATH: Disposition of Remains

Ref: 7 FAM 260

The following information is submitted in accordance with the 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.

Part I. Pakistan

Part II. U.S. Embassy or Consulate Information

U.S. Embassy Islamabad

Address: Diplomatic Enclave, Ramna-5

Phone: (+92) 51-262-3677

Fax: (+92) 51-262-3672

After Hours Phone: (+92) 51-208-0000

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:

Urdu-speaking organizations representing the following religions are found in Pakistan: Islam, Christianity, and Hinduism. The following English-speaking religious organizations exist 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. Embassy Islamabad, 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 Services: Embalmed remains may be kept in cold storage at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences in Islamabad or the Forensic Department of Khyber Medical College in Peshawar for a week or more, depending on availability.

Mortuary Service in Islamabad:

Name and Address	Contact Information	Service Information
Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences Address: PIMS, G-8/3, Islamabad, Pakistan	Administrator name: MAJ (R) Jahanzeb Khan Joint Executive Director (NM) Mobile: (+92) 0300-5352694 Land Line (+92) 051- 9261592 Fax. (+92) 051-9263215 Ext. 2570 Backup: Dr. M. Zulfiqar Ghouri Deputy Executive Director (+92) 0300-2282797/0314- 9555111 or 9260997, Ext. 2604	Subject to availability, embalmed remains may be kept in cold storage for a week or more at no cost. The Institute has limited cold storage space. The Institute does not provide help with paperwork.

Embalming Service in Islamabad:

Name and Address	Contact Information	Service Information
Rawalpindi Medical College Address: Rawalpindi Medical College Tipu Rd, Rawalpindi 46000, Pakistan	Administrator name: Prof. Muhammad Umer Phone: (+92) 51-9290-360 (+92) 51-9281011-6 Fax: (+92) 51-9290519 & 9280462 info@rmc.edu.pk	Remains should be embalmed within 24 hours after death. Cost of embalming: Rs. 10,000/- or \$100

Embalming and Mortuary Service in Peshawar:

Name and Address	Contact Information	Service Information
Forensic Department, Khyber Medical College Road No. 2, University of, Peshawar	Administrator name: Prof. Dr. Zahid Hussain Khalil Phone: +92 (091) 9216218 & 5703711	Remains should be embalmed within 24 hours after death. Subject to availability, embalmed remains may be kept in cold storage for a week or more at no cost. The College has limited cold storage space. The College can provide the certificate of embalming. Cost of embalming: Rs. 15,000/- or \$ 150

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

The local laws governing the disposition of human remains in the Islamabad Consular District are as follows:

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 both Islamabad and Peshawar, 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 Embassy.

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 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,

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.

The shipment cost is approximately \$12.00 – 18.00 per kilogram plus additional charges.

e. Local authorities responsible for licensing funeral directors and morticians: Morticians are government servants.

f. Local authorities responsible for making findings regarding the cause of death and for issuing death local certificates. Medical Officers at the hospitals are responsible for making findings regarding the cause of death, and the Secretary Union Council issues the official death certificate.

(1). **Maximum period before burial:**

(a). Burial customarily takes place within 24 hours of death, if the body is not embalmed. 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 then later join the female family members in the home to mourn together.

(b). Embalmed remains may be kept in cold storage at the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences in Islamabad or the Forensic Department of Khyber Medical College in Peshawar for a week or more, depending on availability.

(2). **Embalming:**

Embalming facilities are available at Rawalpindi Medical College within greater Islamabad and Khyber Medical College in Peshawar. Remains should be embalmed within 24 hours of death. (Note: Quality of embalming is not up to standards typically expected in the U.S. End note.)

(3). **Cremation:**

Local laws permit cremation; however, facilities are limited and it may be difficult to arrange. Cremation is only available through the Hindu temple in Attock, Punjab. They can be contacted at (+92) 0313-5717366.

(4). **Caskets and Containers:** Caskets and containers can be obtained from Global Packers in Islamabad. They can be contacted at (+92 051) 2842969.

(5). **Export of Remains:**

Local requirement for export of human remains are as follows:

(a) Human Remains:

- (i) Official death report
- (ii) Death Certificate from the attending physician or hospital
- (iii) Certificate of embalming
- (iv) Passport of deceased U.S. citizen for Immigration exit stamp
- (v) Authorization letter from local police
- (vi) Export permit: The chief controller of export and imports issues export permit for shipment of remains out of Pakistan.

Note: for ashes, the same documentation is required except for the embalming certificate.

(6). **Exhumation and Shipment:**

For exhumation of remains, permission must first be obtained from the Deputy Commission Officer in Islamabad or Peshawar. The presence of a Health Officer is mandatory at the time of exhumation. Depending on the condition of exhumed remains, the Health Officer will allow for export.

(7). **Costs (Approximate minimum):**

(a) Local burial without embalming (not meant for exhumation): \$300.00

(b) Preparation for shipment:

- (i) Embalming and preservation in cold storage for one week: \$ 400.00
- (ii) Exhumation: \$ 100.00
(with all necessary packaging and documentation)

(c) Freight charges:

Approximate dimensions and weights for human remains are:
Embalmed – Approximately 700 lbs. 7’-4” x 3’ x 2’

(i) Shipment of remains by air:

Peshawar / New York (Qatar Airlines)	\$ 12.00 / Kg
Islamabad / New York (PIA Airlines)	\$ 13.00 / Kg
Peshawar / Washington DC (Qatar Airlines)	\$ 13.00 / Kg
Islamabad / Washington (PIA Airlines)	\$ 14.00 / Kg
Islamabad / San Francisco (PIA Airlines)	\$ 15.00 / Kg
Islamabad / New York (Emirates Airlines)	\$14.00 / Kg

(ii) Additional charges:

Custom Clearance charges	\$ 150.00
Airway bill charges	\$ 30.00

Note: Provide complete name, contact numbers, and email address of the person who will be receiving the remains in USA. The airline will contact that person for confirmation prior to shipment.

- (d) If death occurs outside of the major cities in the Islamabad consular district, the remains may be transferred to Islamabad or Peshawar for preparation (cremation can only be done in Attock, roughly halfway between Peshawar and Islamabad).

Transportation cost of human remains from various cities to Islamabad:

City	Price est., Edhi (nationwide NGO)	Price est., private transport companies
Abbottabad	\$ 25.00	\$ 100.00
Mansehra	\$ 30.00	\$ 120.00
Gujrat	\$ 35.00	\$ 140.00
Gujar Khan	\$ 15.00	\$ 90.00
Chakwal	\$ 30.00	\$ 120.00
Attock	\$ 20.00	\$ 80.00
Mardan	\$ 30.00	\$ 120.00

Transportation cost of human remains from various cities to Peshawar:

City	Price est., Edhi (nationwide NGO)	Price est., private transport companies
Kohat	\$ 15.00	\$ 90.00
Bannu	\$ 40.00	\$ 130.00
D.I.Khan	\$ 60.00	\$ 190.00
Abbottabad	\$ 40.00	\$ 120.00
Mansehra	\$ 45.00	\$ 150.00
Swat	\$ 45.00	\$ 150.00

Mardan	\$ 15.00	\$ 60.00
Swabi	\$ 20.00	\$ 90.00
Nowshera	\$ 10.00	\$ 40.00

(8). **Autopsies:**

In some cases, an autopsy is not required if the cause of death is already determined. An autopsy can be requested through a letter from the Consular Officer to the District Magistrate. The Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences in Islamabad and the Department of Forensic Medicine at Khyber Medical College in Peshawar will perform autopsies upon request.