

Human Remains

OUTLINE OF PROCEDURE FOR SHIPPING HUMAN REMAINS TO THE BAHAMAS

1. REQUIREMENTS TO SHIP HUMAN REMAINS

(i) The Body must be properly embalmed, and must be encased in both a casket and an outside shipping box or tray.

(ii) A funeral home in The Bahamas must be notified prior to shipment. Special attention is drawn to Section 9 of the Coroners Act, Chapter 37 Statue Law of The Bahamas which states: -

"When the dead body of any person is brought within any port or place within the colony, the coroner of the district where the body may be, shall, if necessary inquire concerning the death of the person in the same manner and with the same powers as if the person has died within the coroner's district, although the death or cause of death may have occurred beyond the limits of the district or beyond the colony."

2. DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

To satisfy the requirements of Section 9 of the above act, the undertaker, shipping human remains from abroad to The Bahamas, is required to include in the documentation:

(i) A death certificate signed by a registered Medical Practitioner;

(ii) A document from the Police in whose area or district the death took place stating that there is no police objection to the body being exported;

(iii) Transit permit as required in the Province where shipment is effected;

(iv) Three (3) certified copies of death certificate and a statement issued by the local Health authority declaring that death was not due to an infectious disease, and that no epidemic exists at place of death.

(v) A notarized statement from the Mortician, describing the embalming and stating that the casket contains only the body of the deceased named on the death certificate and burial clothing.

(vi) An Airway Bill.

In case of violent death, the undertaker produces to the police a release order signed by the coroner, or in the case of death due to natural causes, a death certificate signed by a registered Medical Practitioner.

50 O'Connor St., Ottawa, ON, Canada K1P

3. ARRIVAL OF HUMAN REMAINS TO THE BAHAMAS

(i) Once the body arrives in The Bahamas, the receiving undertaker is to produce the documentation to the Police, presumably in Nassau, so that the coroner may be informed to comply with the requirements of Section 9 of the Coroners Act.

(ii) On production of the documentation, the Commissioner of Police upon being satisfied will issue a certificate releasing the body to the undertaker.

4. FEES

- (i) The shipper would normally pay freight charges or a fee can be included in the clearing and handling charges on destination end.
- (ii) This fee may vary depending on place of departure. An additional charge is added if human remains have to be shipped to a family island.

PROCEDURE FOR IMPORTING CREMATED HUMAN REMAINS TO THE BAHAMAS

Persons wishing to import cremated remains into The Bahamas must:

- (i) Provide a death certificate, which is legible and in English;
- (ii) Provide a cremation certificate;
- (iii) Write a letter of request for such import to the Chief Medical Officer, which should include the name of the carrier on which the remains would be transported, the date and time of arrival in The Bahamas. The Office of the Chief Medical Officer will then prepare a document for Bahamas Customs. For persons wishing to scatter remains in The Bahamas, the above procedure should be followed, as well as a permit for the scattering of the ashes should be sought from the Chief Medical Officer. In your letter you should also include where you intend to scatter the remains.

Letters of request can be mailed or faxed to the following address:

**Chief Medical Officer
Ministry of Health
Poincianna Complex
Meeting Street
P.O. Box N-3730
Nassau, Bahamas
Fax: (242) 325-5421
Phone: (242) 502-4853 /502-4840**