

Disposition of Remains Report: Madrid, Spain

April, 2016

Part I. Name of Country: Spain

Part II. U.S. Embassy Information

U.S. Embassy Madrid

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The following information is submitted in accordance with referenced requirements. Various area mortuaries were surveyed in order to compile this date. The laws cite to provide current data on Spanish law on the disposition of remains, in accordance with 7 FAM 250.

DEATH OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN IN SPAIN

When a U.S. citizen dies in Spain, we stand ready to assist with the notification of the next-of-kin (NOK) of the deceased, help with burial or transportation arrangements, provide addresses of local funeral homes and local offices, explain the procedure for obtaining an Spanish death certificate from local authorities and produce an official record of the death which can be used in the United States. We can assist family members in returning the deceased's remains to the United States. However, costs may be high and must be paid by the family. We can also act to protect the property and personal estate of a deceased U.S. citizen until such property can be turned over to the NOK.

Regulations cited in this report are contained in the following sources:

Spanish Government Decree N. 2263/1974 of July 20, 1974, published in the Spanish Official Bulletin N. 197 of August 17, 1974;

Addendum to Decree N. 2263/1974 by the Director General of Public Health, published in the Spanish Official Bulletin N. 180 of July 28, 1976.

Ordinance Regulating Cremation of Bodies and Human Remains (“Ordenanza Reguladora de la Prestacion del Servicio de Incineracion de cadaveres y Restos Humanos), dated July 14, 1971, established by the Spanish Public Health Service.

Autopsy

According to Spanish law, an autopsy is mandatory (1) in all cases of accidental death (2) in cases in which the deceased was not attended by a physician at the time of death, and (3) whenever ordered by a Judge.

Local Death Certificate

Local death certificates are issued upon receipt of the report on the cause of death and a copy of the identity card, or a copy of the U.S. passport, by the registrar of deaths in the district civil status office with jurisdiction over, either the place of residence or the place of death. The death certificate is the official document that certifies the death of an individual. There are different versions:

1.- Extract Certificate: This is a summary of the information related to the death, as it appears in the Civil Register. This can be:

- Ordinary: It is issued in Spanish in the autonomous communities in which the only official language is Spanish.
- International or multilingual: This version is valid in the countries that have ratified the Vienna Convention of 8 September 1976. This certificate is issued in the official language of each of the signatory countries of that convention (Spain, Germany, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia, Croatia, Slovenia, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Macedonia, Netherlands, Portugal, Switzerland, Turkey, Serbia-Montenegro).

Bilingual: Whenever an extract certificate is requested in an autonomous community that has its own official language, the certificate will be issued in Spanish and in the official language of the autonomous community in which it is issued.

2.- Literal: This is a literal copy of the registration of the death, containing all of the data related to the identity of the deceased and the events surrounding the death.

Burial/Interment:

Maximum period before interment

- Embalmed bodies must be buried within 96 hours (Article 15)
- When temporary preservation method is used, bodies must be buried within 72 hours (Article 15)
- Unembalmed bodies must be buried within 48 hours, but not before the lapse of 24 hours (Article 15)
- The remains of a person who has died as the result of a contagious disease must be buried immediately (Article 13)

Cremation:

1. The cremation procedures and method are regulated by existing Public Health Service and Municipal regulations which specifically state that **written authorization** for cremation, signed by the decedent in life, or a statement from the next of kin indicating that the decedent in live made known his/her desire to be cremated, be presented to the local authorities before cremation may be authorized. This requirement obviously poses some problems in cases of death when the next of kin is not in Spain.
2. If the required statement is not available, local burial or embalming will have to take place within 48 hours after death. It is therefore recommended that when cremation is requested and no next of kin or legal representative is present in Spain, specific authorization for cremation be included in the instructions through the Department for disposition of the remains. The Embassy will then officially inform the local authorities of the receipt of telegraphic statement from the next of kin authorizing cremation. A written statement must follow.
3. There are many facilities for cremation in Spain.

Disinterment:

Embalmed remains may be disinterred at any time. Unembalmed remains may only be disinterred after five years. Unembalmed bodies may be disinterred before five years only with special permission from Spanish Health authorities, which is not routinely granted, provided cremation is effected immediately thereafter(Article 7 of Addendum). The cost of exhumation and preparation for shipment is approximately \$1.800 for remains buried for five years or more.

Embalming:

Embalming may not be performed earlier than 24 hours or later than 48 hours from the time of death (Article 15). Embalming methods employed in Spain are adequate for preservation of remains but cosmetics will have to be applied by the U.S. funeral home if the body is to be viewed.

Spanish Public health regulation specifically provide for the appointment of a Public Health Doctor to supervise the embalming (Article 21 and 23).

The remains of a person who has died as the result of a contagious disease may not be embalmed and must be buried immediately (Article 13).

The funeral parlor in Madrid secures authorization for embalming as required by local authorities and obtains the certification thereafter.

Transportation of Remains to the United States: If NOK or legal representative of a deceased person decides to transport the remains for burial in the United States, an Spanish

funeral home will need to provide the following documents to the Embassy so a Consular Mortuary Certificate can be issued:

- Local death certificate from Civil Registry.
- Embalment of the remains.
- Certificate of embalming (medical).
- Transport authorization from the local Public Health Service (“Sanidad”).
- Embalment and transport authorization from judicial authorities in cases of accidental death.
- Certificate of placement of remains in a sealed coffin or container, issued by the Spanish customs authorities.
- Certificate of exhumation and/or cremation of remains (when applicable) issued by the Spanish municipal authorities.

Specific travel itinerary (method of transport to the United States, plus the specific place and scheduled time of arrival of the remains at the POE)

The accompanying documents will be affixed to the Consular Mortuary Certificate, and will be signed by the consular officer and impressed with the consular seal. These documents are returned to the funeral home director who then delivers the remains and paperwork to the airport for transportation to the United States. Please note, however, that preparation of the remains for air transport does not necessarily mean that the remains will be suitable for viewing by relatives upon arrival in the United States.

Costs

- Local interment in Madrid and in other major cities within the Madrid consular district without embalming (it is not the practice in Spain to embalm bodies for local burial) is U.S. \$3500
- Embalming in Madrid is U.S. \$ 1200
- Preparation for shipment (including container, embalming, documentation, casket and coffin, and delivery to airport U.S. \$7800 (This cost is based on 150 Kilograms as the estimated total weight of embalmed remains, casket and shipping container. The total cost includes 250 euros for the airwaybill fee and import service charge)
- Cremation and shipment of ashes from Madrid to New York costs approximately U.S. \$ 5500. The same service in Malaga/Sevilla/Alicante costs approximately U.S.\$ 5750.
- Preparation and shipment of remains from the Canary Islands for cremation adds about U.S. \$1.000 to the above costs. Cremation and deposit of ashes in a columbarium in Madrid costs approximately U.S.\$4500. The same service in Malaga and/or Seville costs approximately \$4.200

It is estimated that a minimum of nine to ten working days is necessary, following receipt of funds, to complete local arrangements for shipment of the remains to the United States.

Special circumstances, for instance cases in which an autopsy is mandatory, may extend this period significantly.

Money can be transferred from the United States using private companies, such as Western Union, or via the Department of State's OCS/TRUST system or directly transferred to a local funeral home bank account in Spain. Information on money transfers is available on the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs webpage <http://travel.state.gov>

Consular Report of Death Abroad

Although authenticated copies of the local death certificate can be obtained, they are unacceptable in the United States for insurance and estate purposes. In the United States, a "Report of Death of an American Citizen Abroad" (CRODA) issued by the U.S. consular officer is generally used in lieu of a foreign death certificate as proof of death. The CRODA is a report that provides the essential facts concerning the death of a U.S. citizen, disposition of remains, and custody of the personal effects of a deceased citizen. The Report of Death is based on the foreign death certificate, and cannot be completed until the foreign death certificate has been issued. The CRODA can sometimes take from two to three weeks or longer after the date of the death, depending on how long it takes local authorities to complete the local death certificate.

We will provide the NOK with up to 20 certified copies of the Report of Death at the time the initial report is issued. These are provided at no fee. For information on how to request a certified copy of a CRODA, please visit the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Consular Affairs webpage "[Copy of a Report of Death of an American Citizen Abroad \(http://travel.state.gov/\)](http://travel.state.gov)."

Additional Information

List of Local Funeral Agencies The Madrid consular **district** comprises the provinces of Alava, Albacete, Alicante, Almería, Asturias, Ávila, Badajoz, Burgos, Cáceres, Cádiz, Cantabria, Castellón, Ciudad Real, Córdoba, Cuenca, Granada, Guadalajara, Guipúzcoa, Huelva, Jaén, La Coruna, La Rioja, León, Lugo, Madrid, Málaga, Murcia, Navarra, Orense, Palencia, Pontevedra, Salamanca, Segovia, Sevilla, Soria, Toledo, Valencia, Valladolid, Vizcaya, Zamora, Canary Island which lie off the northwest African coast and the Spanish enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla on the Northern coast of Africa.

Mortuary establishments exist in all provincial capitals and other sizable cities. Generally, services are provided only by establishments officially designated by the municipal government. In some localities, however, private mortuaries operate. In the city of Madrid, there are different private funeral homes and a Municipal mortuary establishment "SERVICIOS FUNERARIOS DE MADRID", located at Salvador de Madariaga, 11, 28017 Madrid, Spain, telephone +34 915 435 864; +34 915 739 420; e-mail: www.emsf.es

<p>TANATORIO NORTE DE MADRID FUNERARIA NUESTRA SRA DE LOS REMEDIOS Contact: Jose Luis Velasco C/Valdegovia, 8 - 10 28034 Madrid Tel: 902 112 900 / 629 142 233 (24 hrs.) Fax: 917 291 810 www.tanatorionorte.com velascolosremedios@gmail.com</p>	<p>PARCESA Legal Representatives: Juan Alberto Diaz de Villa / Vicente Ayuso Dominguez Crta. Madrid-Colmenar, Salida 20 28100 Alcobendas (Madrid) Tel: 918 061 800 www.parcesa.net parcesa@parcesa.es</p>
<p>INTERFUNERARIAS C/ Comuneros de Castilla, 15 (Entrada: Pso. Quince de Mayo) 28019 Madrid Tel: 915 242 424 info@interfunerarias.es</p>	<p>JEWISH COMMUNITY Ruben Benchaya C/ Balmes, 3 28010 Madrid Attn: Hebra Kadisha hk@cjmadrid.org</p>
<p>EMPRESA MIXTA DE SERVICIOS FUNERARIOS MADRID Director: Isabel Uralde Lopez Ms. Elena and Mr. Sanchez (Director's assistants) Jose Salvador Argente Saez (Marketing Director) C/ Salvador de Madariaga, 11 28027 Madrid Tel: 915 108 182 / 915 108 100 www.emsf.es contratacion@emsf.es</p>	<p>SPAIN FUNERAL SERVICES Work with a network of funeral homes and crematoriums throughout Spain Contact name: Mourad Messaoud Tel: 902 008 407 www.spainfuneralservices.com mourad@spainfuneralservices.com</p>
<p>ALBIA GESTION DE SERVICIOS, S.L.U. C/ Julián Camarillo 36, 3ª planta 28037 Madrid Tel: 900 242 420 / 913 940 564 www.albia.es info@albia.es</p>	<p>SERVISA S.A. – TANATORIO SEVILLA C/ Miguel Romero Martínez, 2 41015 Sevilla Tel: 954 531 353 / Fax: 954 531 444 www.servisa.es Contratacion.Sevilla@servisa.es</p>
<p>MEMORA INTERNATIONAL GRUPO MEMORA Tel: 914 849 400 www.memora.es www.memorainternational.com</p>	<p>FUNERARIAS REUNIDAS Calle de Asturias, 13-15 bajo 33004 Oviedo (Asturias) Tel: 902 387 372 www.gruporeunidas.com informacion@funerariasreunidas.com</p>
<p>CEMENTERIO PARCEMASA Carretera Colonia Santa Inés, 5 29590 Campanillas (Málaga) Tel: 952 006 416 www.parcemasa.es</p>	<p>GRUPO ASV SERVICIOS FUNERARIOS Avenida Alcalde Lorenzo Carbonell, 67 03008 Alicante Tel: 965 205 444 www.grupoasvserviciosfunerarios.com</p>

<p>GRUPO TANATORIO IRACHE Calle del Monasterio de Irache, 60 31011 Pamplona (Navarra) Tel: 948 197 070 www.tanatoriosirache.es</p>	<p>FUNERARIA LA PAZ Calle del Picadero II, 1- Bajo 23007 Jaén Tel: 953 267 425 www.funerialapazsl.es</p>
<p>FUNERARIA GRUPO SUR Calle Carabela, 23, P. I. El Viso 29006 Málaga Tel: 951 946 303 www.funerariagruposur.com</p>	<p>VIGO MEMORIAL Calle da Ponte, 106 36305 Vigo (Pontevedra) Tel: 986 265 280 www.vigomemorial.com</p>

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