

DISPOSITION OF REMAINS REPORT
EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
ATHENS, GREECE
June 2017

Dealing with the death of a family member or loved one can be a very stressful experience and this is often compounded when the death occurs overseas. We hope that the following information on what to expect from the process here in Greece is helpful to you if you are faced with such a situation.

Note: Prices estimated within this document are based on information provided to us by the funeral service industry. They are estimates and subject to change. Prices have been quoted in Euro. The exchange rate as of 16 June 2017 is 1 Euro = US\$1.12 and U.S. dollar estimates use this rate. Information on current exchange rates is available online at public websites such www.xe.com and www.x-rates.com.

U.S. EMBASSY INFORMATION:

Address: Embassy of the United States of America
Vasilissis Sofias Avenue 91
Athens 101 60, Greece

Working Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:30 am to 5:00 pm, except U.S. and Greek holidays.

The U.S. Embassy in Athens prepares the Consular Report of Death of an American Citizen Abroad for all U.S. citizens who die in Greece. This document is for use in the United States and it is based on the Greek Death certificate, the deceased's U.S. passport, and information provided by the relatives. For that purpose the deceased's relatives should contact the American Citizen Services of the U.S. Embassy in Athens.

Phone: (+30) 210-721-2951

Fax: (+30) 210-724-5313

- For emergencies on the last Wednesday of each month, (+30) 210-721-2951.
- For after-hour emergencies (outside of normal working hours), (+30) 210-720-2490
- If you are dialing from the U.S., please call 1-888-407-4747.

Email: AthensAmericanCitizenServices@state.gov

Country Specific Travel Information is available at:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/greece.html>

Travel Alerts and Warnings are available at:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html>

Stay in touch with your local Embassy or Consulate. Register your travel at:

<https://step.state.gov/step/>

MAJOR RELIGIONS

Roughly 95% of the permanent population of Greece professes the Greek Orthodox faith, the remaining 5% is divided among Roman Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, Jews, and Gregorian Armenians. While customs pertaining to death and burial are dominated by Greek Orthodox practice, numerous mortuaries are well acquainted with and able to follow most practices of other religions and traditions.

Information for persons of Jewish faith:

The Jewish community offers services requested by the faith in the course of preparation. The following contacts will be helpful: The Office of the Jewish Community of Athens, Rabbi Iakov Arar, 5 Melidoni Street, Athens, 210 325-2823, 210 325-2773, 210-325-2875.

INFORMATION FOR FUNERAL HOMES

The U.S. Embassy in Athens, Greece, 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. The fee and method of payment should be negotiated directly by those responsible for payment with the chosen funeral home.

If the deceased was covered by traveler's insurance, please consult directly with the insurance provider to determine whether the provider has a pre-existing contractual relationship with a particular funeral home.

We recommend discussing with the funeral home the services available, cost, and method of payment, whether by credit card, bank transfer, or Western Union. The Embassy can assist with the transfer of funds from the United States or elsewhere, or you can have them directly sent to the funeral home of your choice through Western Union. Please note that transfer of funds through the Embassy is a process that may take several days.

Our experience has shown the average cost of preparation for shipment to be from \$2,600 (2,300 Euros) to \$11,200 (10,000 Euros), plus shipping costs. Please have in mind that costs vary depending on currency fluctuations, weight of shipment, destination, etc.

If you require service outside of the regions listed below, many of the Funeral Service Providers have contacts with Funeral Service Providers within their local region and around Greece.

A T H E N S

GIANNAKOPOULOS Anargyros Funeral Home

Director: Mr. Anargyros Giannakopoulos
49 Deinokratous Street, 10676 Athens
Tel. +30 210-721-0173
+30 210-721-0174,
Fax. +30 210 723-1650
Nikos Giannakopoulos: +30 6977326484
Manos Lignos: +30 6977303063
Dimitris Sotiropoulos: +30 6977329292
e-mail: info@agiannakopoulos.gr

KALOUMENOS Minas Funeral Home

Director: Mr. Minas Kaloumenos
95 Ioanninon Street, 104 44 Athens
Tel. +30 210 515-4600 (office)
Fax. +30 210 513-1660, 210 252-7550 (home)
Mobile: +30 6944304051
e-mail: mk@mkassist.gr

KYRIAKIDIS Nikolaos Funeral Home

Director: Nikolaos Kyriakidis
27 Anapafseos, 116 36 Athens
Tel. +30 210-923-7772
+30 210-9227900
Fax +30 210-9221607
Mobile +30 6974018949
Website: www.kyriakidisfunerals.gr
www.grafeia-teleton-kyriakidis.gr
www.grafeia-teleton-kyriakidis.gr/en
E-mail: info@grafeia-teleton-kyriakidis.gr

Successors of K. LYKOSKOUFIS & Co

Director: Mr. Vassilis Kokoris
12 Valtetsiou St. & Ippokratous 10680 Athens
Tel. +30 210 361-2007 (office)
Fax. +30 210 361-6084
Mobile: +30 6972885324
e-mail: vasiliskokoris@lykoskoufis.onmicrosoft.com
funeral.lykoskoufis@gmail.com

D.K. MYSTRAS Funeral Home

Director: Mr. Dimitris Mystras
50 Sari Street, 105 53 Athens
Tel. 210-3218692/ 3245562
Fax 210-324-2163, Mobile: 6944506790
e-mail: dcmistras@gmail.com

C O R F U

Grammenos International Funeral & Repatriation Services Greece

Director: Mr. Loukas Grammenos
27 Alex. Panagouli, 491 00 Corfu (Corfu Office)
Tel. +30 26610-20390
Mobile: +30 6948214374
Fax +30 26610-40560
Rodou 43, 151 22 Marousi (Athens Office)
Tel. +30 210-8055656
Mobile: +30 6948214734
Website:
<http://www.grammenosinternational.com>
e-mail: info@grammenosinternational.com

I R A K L I O, C R E T E

MARKOULAKIS G.& J. Funeral Home

Director: Markoulaki, Georgia
Gerasimou Pardali 2 & Panarous Street
71201 Iraklio, Crete
Tel. +30 2810-284504
+30 2810-282080
Fax. +30 2810-289133
Mobile: +30 6948589078
e-mail: minas.markoulakis@gmail.com

R H O D E S

THEMELIS ASTERIS Funeral Home "Themeli"

Director: Mrs. Kiki Asteris
107 Kritika Street, 85100 Rhodes
Tel. +30 22410-24107
+30 22410-34279
Fax. +30 22410-37300
Mobile: +30 6946284666
E-mail: kikiasteri@hotmail.com

themeli@windowslive.com

AMERIKANOS G. Funeral Home

Director: Mrs. Matina Amerikanou

Mr. Livanios Irdanidis

56 Patriarchou Athinagora Street

851 00 Rhodes

Tel. +30 2241-033400

+30 2241-028901

Fax +30 2241-028901

Mobile: +30 6947344030

+30 6989197550

E-mail: amerikanos83@yahoo.gr

THESSALONIKI:

BABOULAS FUNERAL HOME

Directors: Fanis & Vasilios Baboulas

Address: Vasilissis Olgas 72, Thessaloniki 54643

Tel: 2310-869250, 2310-869251

Fax: 2310-869251

Mobile: 6944315827, 6944796621

Email: funeral@baboulas.gr

DARAVINGAS FUNERAL HOME

Director: Theofanis Misirlis

Address: Vasilissis Olgas 47, Thessaloniki 54641

Tel: 2310-830924

Fax: 2310-840092

Mobile: 6972503111, 6972020320

Email: info@daravigas-teletes.gr

GESIOS FUNERAL HOME

Director: Stavros Gesios

Address: G. Papandreou 30, Thessaloniki 54646

Tel: 2310-429141, 2310-429142

Fax: 2310-429151

Mobile: 6944242142

MAVRIDIS KONSTANTINOS FUNERAL HOME

Director: Ioannis Anastasiadis

Address: Agiou Dimitriou 147, Thessaloniki 54634

Tel: 2310-206032, 2310-213347

Fax: 2310-203906
Mobile: 6937005894
Email: ANASTASG70@GMAIL.COM

PROFILE OF SERVICES

REFRIGERATION

There are about 350 refrigerated units in the Attica area, including the Athens and Piraeus morgues, and facilities at cemeteries and funeral homes. The Athens Morgue is located at Mikras Asias 75, Athens, tel. (+30) 210-7462429, and the Piraeus Morgue is located at Gounari 31-33, Piraeus, tel. (+30) 210-4613904.

For northern Greece, the Forensic Services of Thessaloniki is available at Tel: (+30) 2310-550413 and the Thessaloniki Morgue at Tel: (+30) 2310-550414.

EMBALMING

Embalming is done in Greece when remains are to be transported long distances. Under Greek regulations, un-embalmed remains must be buried prior to the onset of decay, or within 48 hours of death. In remote areas without refrigeration, un-embalmed remains must be buried within 24 hours in the summer; during winter months the deadline can be extended to 36 hours. Embalming costs average from \$200 (180 Euros) to \$390 (350 Euros) in Athens and from \$225 (200 Euros) to \$670 (600 Euros) in outlying parts of the country and remote islands.

AUTOPSIES

An autopsy is mandatory when a violent or sudden death occurs or when the deceased was hospitalized less than 24 hours, unless there had been a clear prior diagnosis explaining the cause of death. The deceased's attending physician or relatives may request an autopsy after any death. The Ministry of Justice employs approximately 25 coroners country-wide who are responsible for performing autopsies. District attorneys and police authorize the autopsies.

Please Note: Autopsies – Under Greek law, during an autopsy, organs may be removed along with histological tissue for testing at the discretion of the Medical Examiner, **without** the knowledge or consent of next-of-kin. Autopsies are carried out by local Medical Examiners who fall under the jurisdiction of the Greek Ministry of Justice. Tests are completed on removed organs and specimens long after the deceased's body has been buried locally or shipped to the United States. The Greek Ministry of Justice has indicated that organs and specimens tested remain in the possession of the lab three months from the day that the autopsy was performed and destroyed afterwards. Organs removed and histological specimens taken may be returned to the next-of-kin upon request through a lawyer or funeral home. Cost of the return is borne by the next of kin and range from \$560 (500 Euros) to \$2,100 (1,900 Euros).

For information of on local English- speaking attorneys, please see our list of Attorneys.

CREMATION

Cremation was recently legalized in Greece, in but no cremation facilities are yet available. Some funeral homes ship embalmed remains to nearby countries for cremation, and arrange to forward the ashes for final disposition. Families interested in cremation should obtain cost estimates from their selected funeral home. Costs are often comparable to those associated with shipping embalmed remains to the United States.

LOCAL BURIAL/SHIPMENT TO THE UNITED STATES.:

BURIAL IN GREECE:

The cost of a simple burial in Greece, without embalming, averages from \$1,600 (1,450 Euros) to \$3,600 (3,200 Euros). Please see the above section on “Embalming” for additional costs.

SHIPMENT OF REMAINS TO THE UNITED STATES:

The basic funeral home cost for preparing remains for shipment from Athens to the United States averages from \$2,600 (2,300 Euros) to \$11,200 (10,000 Euros). The airline shipping cost is calculated on weight and is in addition to the funeral home fees. (See “Airfreight Costs Per Kilo” below.) When the death occurs outside of Athens, additional costs may be incurred to cover ferry charges, mileage, highway tolls, etc. The fees for storage range from \$35 (30 Euros) to \$170 (150 Euros) per day.

EXHUMATION AND SHIPMENT OF REMAINS

According to local law, in public cemeteries, skeletal remains must be exhumed three years after interment and placed in an ossuary container. Un-embalmed remains may be disinterred before three years elapse with permission from the local district attorney, and exhumation must occur in the presence of a coroner. The cost of for exhuming and preparing such un-embalmed remains for shipment to the U.S. varies from \$2,600 (2,300 Euros) to \$6,700 (6,000 Euros). The cost of exhumation and preparation of skeletal remains for shipment from Athens to the United States ranges from \$1,100 (1,000 Euros) to \$2,800 (2,500 Euros). The additional shipping cost depends on the weight of the remains. (See “Airfreight Costs Per Kilo” below.)

CASKETS AND CONTAINERS

Although hermetically sealed metal caskets such as those used in the United States are now available at a few Athens funeral homes, this type of casket is seldom used for shipment due to the cost and weight. Instead, a wooden casket is placed inside a metal container which is welded shut. The container is in turn encased in a wooden box for shipment.

TRANSPORTATION

The numerous airlines serving Athens usually make international shipment feasible daily. However, routings often cannot be direct due to freight limitations on certain flights and the need to secure onward connections and proper storage facilities at the U.S. port of entry. In-

country transport from outlying areas to Athens is often done by truck or by hearse on the mainland and by boat or domestic flights from islands. Trains are rarely used.

AIRFRIGHT COSTS PER KILO

Local Funeral Service Providers typically contract with the airlines below, but other air carriers may be used.

KLM & AIR FRANCE: per KG*

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| ATHENS – CHICAGO | \$6.76 (6.05 Euro) |
| ATHENS – HOUSTON | \$6.76 (6.05 Euro) |
| ATHENS – LOS ANGELES | \$6.76 (6.05 Euro) |
| ATHENS – NEW YORK | \$6.76 (6.05 Euro) |
| ATHENS – MIAMI | \$6.76 (6.05 Euro) |

*Plus airport fees, human remains fees, terminal handling, airway bill fees:
\$192 (172 Euros)

LUFTHANSA: per KG*

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| ATHENS -- CHICAGO | \$18.17 (16.26 Euro) |
| ATHENS – HOUSTON | \$18.32 (16.40 Euro) |
| ATHENS – LOS ANGELES | \$18.32 (16.40 Euro) |
| ATHENS – NEW YORK | \$18.17 (16.26 Euro) |
| ATHENS – MIAMI | \$19.17 (17.16 Euro) |

* Plus surcharge \$0.73 (0.65 Euro) per KG, human remains fee \$106.14 (95.00 Euro) per airway bill, terminal handling fees: \$36.13 (32.34 Euro) per airway bill.
