

GUIDE FOR TRANSPORTING REMAINS OR ASHES

RELACIONES EXTERIORES

SECRETARÍA DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES



INFORMATION ON
TRANSPORTING THE
REMAINS OR ASHES OF
MEXICANS WHO DIE
ABROAD FOR
DISPOSITION IN MEXICO

TRANSPORTING THE REMAINS OR ASHES OF MEXICANS WHO DIE ABROAD

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs can guide and assist you with transporting the remains or ashes of Mexicans who die abroad to Mexico for their disposition.

This assistance is not available if transporting the remains to any country other than Mexico, or within the country where the death occurred.

The family should contact the Mexican embassy or consulate that serves the place where the death occurred and be able to provide the deceased individual's personal information, the location of the remains and the destination in Mexico.

The family will also need provide the necessary documentation and comply with the health regulations in both Mexico and the country where the death occurred in order to transport the remains or ashes to Mexico.

If the deceased is a COVID-19 victim, the local authorities may require special procedures for preparing and releasing the remains. Some authorities recommend or require cremation for health reasons. Muslim-majority countries do not allow the remains to be cremated or transported, and the bodies must be buried immediately at the place of death.

The Mexican Health Ministry has indicated that it is preferable to cremate the remains, as there is no risk in handling the ashes. However, if the family decides on burial in Mexico, the funeral home used abroad must comply with the Guidelines for Managing the Bodies of COVID-19 Victims in Mexico.

In addition, the family or the funeral home involved in transporting the body back to Mexico should ensure that:

- a) The funeral home in Mexico is equipped to properly manage the remains in accordance with health and safety guidelines.
- b) If air transportation is needed, that the airline will accept the remains or ashes of a COVID-19 victim.
- c) The appropriate state government in Mexico will allow the remains to be buried at the intended destination. Some state governments are only accepting cremated remains.

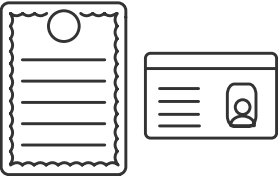

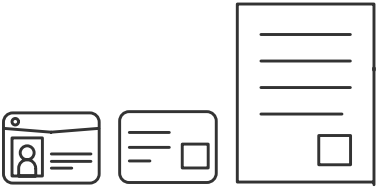
If financial assistance is needed, the family of the deceased must demonstrate that it is unable to cover the cost of transportation. If approved, the assistance provided by the Government of Mexico through its representations abroad covers only:

- Basic transportation services, and
- Embalming or cremation.

The embassies and consulates do not cover any additional services or expenses related to ceremonies. The assistance goes directly to the service providers.

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Documents required to transport the remains, from:

Family	Funeral home and local authorities	Embassies, Consulates and Foreign Ministry
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Birth certificate of the deceased. ·Identification document of the family member. ·Identification document of the deceased. ·If there is no proof of nationality for the deceased, a declaration of citizenship will be signed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Death certificate, with translation and apostille. The apostille is issued by the local authority. For the correct local authority, contact your consulate. ·Embalming or cremation certificate (issued by the local authority) ·Transit permit for the body or ashes (issued by the health authority) ·Invoices for services provided <p>It may take longer than usual to receive the death certificate, apostille or legalization due to the limited services currently available from foreign government offices during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ·Transit permit visa for remains or ashes. ·Visa for the embalming or cremation certificate. ·Death certificate issued by the Mexican consulate, especially when the final destination of the remains is Mexico City. ·Processes the financial assistance application, if applicable. 

If no family members of the deceased are present at the place of death, they should go to a Foreign Ministry delegation in Mexico. Residents of the Mexico City metropolitan area should go to the Foreign Ministry headquarters (Plaza Juárez 20, ground floor, Col. Centro, Cuauhtémoc Municipality, Mexico City, Mexico 06010) to request information about how to proceed.

*IMPORTANT

The Foreign Ministry delegations are currently closed in compliance with the public health measures put in place to control the COVID-19 virus.

Before going to a delegation, first send an email to dgpm exterior@sre.gob.mx to ensure that you receive the proper assistance.

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FAMILY

Notification of death

The family submits the documents to the representation, selects the local funeral home at the place of death and indicates where the remains will be buried.

If the family is unable to cover the entire cost of the funeral services needed abroad, they should request an interview at the corresponding office (consulate, delegation or Foreign Ministry—Office for the Protection of Mexicans Abroad-DGPME) to determine how much assistance is available to them.

AUTHORITIES AT THE PLACE OF DEATH

Provide the required documentation:

- Death certificate.*
- Apostille or legalization of the death certificate.**
- Embalming or cremation certificate.
- Transit permit for the remains or ashes.

CONSULATE / FOREIGN MINISTRY (DGPME)

1. Interviews the family of the deceased.
2. Records the information in the Comprehensive Consular Protection System (SIPC).
3. Reviews the documentation and confirms the nationality of the deceased:
 - Birth certificate of the deceased.
 - Identification document of the family member.
 - Identification document of the deceased.
 - If there is no proof of nationality for the deceased, a declaration of citizenship must be signed.
4. Issues the documentation required to transport the remains or ashes to Mexico:
 - Visa for the transit permit of the remains (cremated or embalmed).
 - Visa for the embalming or cremation certificate.
 - Death certificate issued by the consulate, especially if the final destination of the remains is Mexico City.Visas are issued free of charge.

The funeral home repatriates the remains or ashes using available means of transportation and routes.

The current COVID-19 pandemic has significantly reduced the number of commercial flights available, which could affect the time needed to transport the remains or ashes.

 To be done by the embassy, consulate or Directorate for Protection of Mexicans Abroad.

 To be done by authorities or agencies abroad.

 To be done by applicant or family.

* If the death certificate is issued in a language other than Spanish, it must be translated in Mexico by a Federal Court-authorized translator.

**The apostille is a certification that authenticates public documents for use in other countries. It is issued by the local authority in countries that participate in the Apostille Convention.

In countries that do not issue apostilles, the appropriate local authority must first legalize the document. It then needs consular legalization at the corresponding Mexican representation.

For more information call the
CIAM (Center for Information and Assistance for Mexicans)

From the United States: 520 623 7874

From Mexico: 001 520 623 7874

If you are in any other country, consult the contact information of the corresponding Mexican representation at:

<https://www.gob.mx/proteccionconsular>