

## Department of State

## § 72.1

shall suspend provision of the dietary supplements and report the incident in full to the Department.

### PART 72—DEATHS AND ESTATES

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AUTHORITY: R.S. 1709, as amended, sec. 302, 60 Stat. 1001; 22 U.S.C. 1175, 842.

SOURCE: 22 FR 10841, Dec. 27, 1957, unless otherwise noted.

#### REPORTING DEATHS OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS

##### § 72.1 Consular responsibility.

(a) A consular officer (or in his absence a diplomatic officer) is responsible for reporting to the Department, to the legal representative, and to the closest known relative the deaths of all United States citizens occurring in his consular district except as otherwise provided in § 72.2. In order that he may be informed of such deaths, the consular officer should enlist the cooperation and assistance of the local authorities and the members of the American community.

(b) A consular agent is not authorized to report the deaths of United States citizens to the Department, to the legal representative and to the closest known relative. The consular agent should, however, immediately report the circumstances of the death to

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his principal consular officer, who then has the responsibility for reporting in the manner prescribed in this section through § 72.8.

### § 72.2 Exceptions to consular responsibility.

(a) *Department of Defense personnel.* The Department of Defense is required to report officially the deaths of its military and civilian personnel. However, if no representative of the Department of Defense is present in the consular district where the death occurs, the consular officer should inform the Mission in the country to which he is assigned regarding the circumstances, for action by the appropriate attache. In colonial or trustee areas, or in countries in which no Defense Department attaches are assigned, the consular officer should telegraph the particulars of the death to the Department of State, indicating the maximum length of time before local burial is mandatory, for action by the Department of Defense. All inquiries concerning the death of any person falling within this category should be referred to the Department of Defense, Washington, DC 20301. Instructions in this paragraph do not apply to reporting the deaths of dependents of Department of Defense personnel or to reporting the deaths of contractor personnel, i.e., United States civilians employed in foreign countries by commercial concerns operating under contract with the Department of Defense, or their dependents. The deaths of such persons should be reported in the manner prescribed in § 72.4

(b) *Coast Guard personnel.* The United States Coast Guard is required to report officially the deaths of its military and civilian personnel. If death occurs in any country in Europe or the British Isles in which a Coast Guard detail is not assigned, the consular officer should inform the Senior Coast Guard Merchant Marine Detail Officer (Europe), London, England, by telegraph. If the death occurs outside Europe or the British Isles, the consular officer should telegraph the particulars of the death to the Department of State, indicating the maximum length of time before local burial is mandatory, for action by the Coast Guard. All

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inquiries concerning the death of Coast Guard personnel should be referred to the Commandant, United States Coast Guard, Washington, DC 20226. The instructions in this section do not apply to reporting the deaths of dependents of Coast Guard personnel. The deaths of such persons should be reported in the manner prescribed in § 72.4.

### § 72.3 Telegraphic notifications of death.

(a) *Use of telegraph.* When instructions must be obtained from the next of kin or other interested person in the United States as to disposition of the remains, notification of death should be sent by telegraph to the Department for forwarding. If available to the consular officer, the name and address of the next of kin or legal representative (§ 72.18) should be included in the message. Consular officers at posts in Canada and Mexico whose consular districts are contiguous to the United States may, in their discretion, communicate directly by telegraph with next of kin or legal representative, requesting instructions for disposition of the remains.

(b) *Content of notification.* All such notifications should state the minimum cost of

- (1) Local burial;
- (2) Cremation (if applicable);
- (3) Embalming, preparing and shipping the remains; and
- (4) The maximum period of time before local burial is mandatory.

(c) *Payment of charges.* The cost of these initial notifications of death by telegraph is a proper charge against official funds. Subsequent telegrams relating to matters for personal decision are normally at the expense of interested parties.

[22 FR 10841, Dec. 27, 1957, as amended at 30 FR 4412, Apr. 6, 1965]

### § 72.4 Normal reporting procedure.

(a) *Purpose and use of Form FS-192.* Form FS-192, "Report of the Death of an American Citizen", is an administrative report established for the purpose of providing essential facts concerning the death of a United States citizen, and should be used to report the death officially to the Department, to the legal representative, and to the