



DISPOSITION OF REMAINS

The following information is submitted in accordance with referenced requirements. Revision is made according to latest information supplied to us by the two major funeral homes.

A. Consular Section

American Embassy
Ave La Reforma 7-01, Zona 10
Guatemala

Michelle Biskup, Chief, American Citizen Services
BiskupMM@state.gov
Phone 011 (502) 2326-4403
Fax 011 (502) 2326-4655
Phone (502) 331-2354, after hours

Major religion in Guatemala is catholic.

B. Disposition of Remains

Maximum period before burial:

National law requires burial within 24 hours when the body is not embalmed. If the body is embalmed, burial is not required within any specific period. There is no refrigerated morgue in Guatemala.

Embalming:

Two funeral homes in Guatemala, Funerales Reforma and Capillas Señoriales, have embalming facilities which approach U.S. standards. Embalming must be done within 24 hours of the death.

Funerales Reforma
www.funeralesreforma.com
6 Ave 10-14, Zona 9
Guatemala, C.A.
Tel (502) 2334-0287
Fax (502) 2331-5444

Capillas Señoriales
www.senoriales.com
Blvd. Liberacion 6-53, Zona 9
Guatemala, C.A.
Tel (502) 2379-8989

Costs:

Estimated cost for preparation of body to be sent to the United States:	\$7,000.00
Estimated cost for burial of remains in Guatemala:	\$1,920.00
Estimated cost for cremation in Guatemala:	\$2,073.00
Estimated prices for shipping two hundred kilos (average weight of remains forwarded to the U.S.) from Guatemala City to the United States:	\$1,400.00

There are no refrigerated morgues in Guatemala.

C. Cremation

Funerales Reforma and Capillas Senoriales are the only Guatemalan funeral homes to have government permission to cremate remains.

Caskets and Containers:

Caskets and containers available locally meet the requirements for shipment out of the country.

Exportation of Remains:

To export a body, the following are required:

1. Guatemalan burial transit permit
2. Embalming of body
3. Hermetically sealed box
4. Zinc casket
5. Outer wooden casket
6. Shipping container if the body returns to the U.S. by plane or boat

Exportation of ashes:

1. Transit permit
2. Cremation certificate issued by the Cemetery
3. Guatemalan death certificate

Exhumation:

National regulations state that remains buried in Guatemala may not be disinterred until after six years from the date of burial. Only in special circumstances, such as when a body was not identified at the time of burial, can exhumation be performed for the specific purpose of identifying the body, with previous authorization from the Guatemalan government.

If the body has been embalmed, it is possible to ship the remains to the United States . A Guatemalan burial transit permit and zinc casket are required. Depending on the deterioration of the remains, an outer

wooden casket may also be required. An estimate of the cost of this procedure is unavailable as this depends on the rate of deterioration of the remains.

D. Remarks

Frequently, remains must be transferred from points outside of Guatemala City to the capital for embalming and shipment. We are including, therefore, a list of estimated charges for transportation of remains intercountry. These costs should be added to those costs listed above in the event of transfer of the remains to Guatemala City from:

Flores, Peten	\$420.00
Puerto Barrios, Izabal	260.00
Huehuetenango	240.00
Coban, Alta Verapaz	200.00
Quetzaltenango	180.00
Retalhuleu	180.00
El Quiche	160.00
Antigua, Sacatepequez	125.00
Escuintla	150.00

There is no perpetual care for remains buried in Guatemala. If, after six years, next of kin does not make financial arrangements through the funeral home for continued care of the burial niche, remains are removed to a common grave.