



Disposition of a U.S. Citizen's Remains

U.S. Consulate General – Toronto

Updated: November 28, 2018

The following information is submitted in accordance with current regulations to provide data on Canadian laws and practices on the disposition of remains in the Toronto Consular District.

1. SERVICES

(A) Maximum Period Before Burial:

In Ontario, there are **no** specific laws that regulate the time between death and ultimate burial of the deceased, unless specified by the presiding local Medical Officer of Health. The availability of refrigeration facilities can extend the preservation of the body before disposition, if necessary

(B) Embalming:

Local embalming facilities do exist, but it is not required if the remains are buried in the province where the death takes place. Embalming is required if the remains are transported out of province. For funeral purposes, it is recommended that remains be embalmed within 24-36 hours of the death.

(C) Cremation of Remains:

Cremation is legally permitted across Canada. Crematorium facilities do exist in the Toronto area. Prior to cremation, a thorough investigation of the cause of death must be performed and a permit must be granted. Cremated remains may be scattered on Crown land without permission, transported out of Ontario or interred in an urn or casket.

(D) Exportation of Remains:

Human remains intended for interment or subsequent cremation after entry into the United States must be accompanied by a death certificate stating the cause of death. If the death certificate is in a language other than English, then it should be accompanied by an English language translation.

CBP Officers will examine the death certificate to determine the cause of death and ensure that the remains are shipped in accordance with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) requirements. If CDC requirements are not met, CBP will hold the casket and contact the appropriate quarantine station for instructions.

If the remains /bodies are embalmed and the casket is hermetically sealed, the remains may be released under any conditions. Also, if the remains have been cremated they may be admitted into the United States without restriction, regardless of the cause of death.

Additional information on the public health requirements for importation of human remains is available at the [CDC web site](#).

Corpses, together with their coffins and accompanying flowers are exempt from duty. No formal entry is required. There may be [Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service \(APHIS\)](#) concerns regarding the accompanying flowers. CBP Officers will make a determination of Admissibility of any accompanying flowers on site.

(E) Caskets and Containers

There are a variety of caskets and shipping containers available in Toronto which meet the requirements for burial and transportation out of Ontario.

2. COSTS

The following is an average price list of funereal expenses in the Toronto region. Prices fluctuate often, so check with a local service provider for the most up-to-date information.

Price List		
	Expense (CAD)	Expense (USD)
Local Internment	\$1500 and up	\$1100 and up
Cremation	\$600 and up	\$500 and up
Embalming	\$900 and up	\$650 and up
Caskets	\$2000 and up	\$1500 and up
Preparation of remains for shipment (embalming, documentation, transportation, excluding casket)	\$2800 and up	\$200 and up

Transportation Costs of Adult Human Remains to U.S. Destinations from Toronto*:¹

	Expenses (CAD)	Expenses (USD)
Philadelphia	\$480	\$355
Atlanta	\$500	\$370
Miami	\$500	\$370
New York (JFK)	\$480	\$355
Seattle	\$750	\$550
Chicago	\$610	\$450
Los Angeles (LAX)	\$750	\$550
San Francisco	\$750	\$550
Omaha	\$610	\$450
Denver	\$610	\$450

¹ <http://www.swacargo.com/swacargo/rateQuoteEntry.htm> 2018

***It is important to note these prices are an approximation and are subject to vary. Please check with a local cargo carrier or air Transportation Company for specific rates.**

3. RESOURCES

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Consulate, Toronto, Canada, 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.

- [Turner & Porter](#)

They offer four convenient locations to better serve you.

Tel from the U.S.: 416-231-2283

Fax from the U.S.:416-231-1661

Operating with a contract embalmer.

Cremation/shipment can be also arranged.

- [Dignity Memorial](#)

Offered through a network of more than 1,800 funeral, cremation and cemetery providers in Canada and the United States. 1-800-343-4464, their representatives are available 24hours a day, 7 days a week.

- [Cardinal Funeral Homes Ltd.](#)

The following resources will help you discover what obligations you have following the passing of a friend or loved one.

1. Answers to common questions about what to do, and what support is available, when a loved one dies in Ontario.
2. What to do when someone dies in Canada
3. Funeral, Burial and Cremation Services Act, 2002