



DEATH OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN

Death Overseas

The Consular Section's American Citizen Services (ACS) unit can assist family and friends in the event of the death of a U.S. citizen in Paraguay by:

- Acting as a liaison in arranging the disposition of remains and forwarding personal effects.
- Providing a list of local funeral homes that are familiar with the international shipping requirements of human remains.
- Working with the funeral home selected by the family to ensure proper documentation for shipment of remains to the United States.

Note that the family or legal representative must pay all funeral home charges, shipping costs of the remains and personal effects (if applicable).

Even if no assistance is needed in making funeral arrangements, the death of a U.S. citizen, whether resident or tourist, should be reported to the ACS unit so that a Consular Report of Death of a U.S. Citizen Abroad can be issued. This document is necessary to settle legal and estate matters in the United States. The ACS unit issues several copies of the report to the family, to allow sufficient in number to settle matters in the United States. In order to assist with the preparation of this document, refer to the form on the embassy website.

Disposition of Remains

The following information is provided to assist families in their initial decisions. Indicated costs are general **estimates** based on deaths with no unusual circumstances. These estimates also relate only to costs incurred in Paraguay (inclusive of shipping). U.S. funeral home costs are not included.



A. Requirement for autopsy (post mortem) in the event of sudden death

Under Paraguayan law, a judge must order an autopsy be conducted when there is reasonable cause to suspect that the deceased died from

- (a) violent or unnatural death; or
- (b) a sudden death of which the cause is unknown; or
- (c) death in prison or in such place or in such circumstances as to require a further inquest.

B. Maximum period before interment

Paraguayan law does not place a time limit within which burial must take place. However funeral homes generally only allow one week to receive the next-of-kin's instructions due to storage facilities limitations. Storage availability and fees must be inquired in each case.

C. Registration of death

Under Paraguayan law, all deaths must be communicated to the Civil Registrar's office as soon as possible by any person that has knowledge of the concerning death.

D. Embalming

Embalming/preparing the body is recommended due to Paraguay's weather conditions and high humidity. Also, storage facilities may differ from those available in the United States.

Next-of-kin are encouraged to consult with the receiving funeral home in the United States to resolve any doubts about embalming, particularly if relatives wish to view the remains. Next-of-kin should advise the funeral home or the ACS unit if, for religious or other reasons, the body should not be embalmed. In cases of HIV/AIDS- related death, or other highly contagious diseases, embalming may not be possible and should be discussed with the selected funeral home in Paraguay. If embalming occurs without prior notification of possible diseases, the funeral home may charge additional costs to replace equipment due to Paraguayan health and safety regulations.



E. Cremation

There is no time limit within which remains must be cremated.

F. Coffins

Coffins/caskets are available that are suitable for cremation, local burial or international shipment of remains.

G. Exportation of remains from Paraguay

(1) Whole Remains: Whole remains must be contained in a zinc-lined, hermitically sealed coffin/casket. To facilitate the export of whole remains from Paraguay to the United States the Embassy prepares a Consular Mortuary Certificate. This certificate provides the flight details and consignee and incorporates the following documents:

- (a) A certified copy of the local death certificate or the coroner's interim certificate when an inquest is pending;
- (b) An affidavit from the funeral director stating that the remains have been properly prepared and packed for shipment; and
- (c) An embalming certificate, if appropriate.

(2) Cremated Remains: Cremated remains may be exported if they are accompanied by a certified copy of the local death certificate, the cremation certificate and a statement from the crematorium or the funeral home confirming the urn contains only the ashes of the deceased. We recommend that airline passengers carrying cremated remains to the United States declare the nature of the package to Paraguayan and U.S. customs. It is also advisable that the urn be wooden to allow security screening at the airport.



H. Cost estimates

Charges shown are based on an exchange rate of \$1.00 = 6300 Guaraníes. Note that these are fee estimates from Paraguayan funeral homes and that the ACS unit does not charge for our assistance helping families.

I) Local viewing - \$1,400 - \$2,700

Fees include collection and transportation of remains, funeral home charges, coffin, administrative fees and, death certificate. This does not include all costs associated with disposition of remains and there may be additional fees depending on which option below is selected.

II) Cremation - \$1,400 - \$1,600

Fee includes collection and transportation of remains in the Asunción area, doctors' certificates, crematorium fee, urn, and administrative fees.

III) Cremation and mailing of ashes – cost will differ depending on weight and final destination of remains.

Additional cost to be added to (I).

This includes the collection of the ashes from the crematorium, packaging and forwarding to the consignee by private courier.

There is a \$450 shipping fee to the following cities in the USA:

Boston

Chicago

Fort Lauderdale

Las Vegas

Los Angeles

Miami

New York (John F. Kennedy)

Orlando

San Francisco

Tampa

Washington DC (Dulles)

This fee only includes the Paraguayan customs clearance. A \$200 fee should be added for USA customs clearance. This does not include removal rates at the destination airport.



U.S. Embassy
Asuncion, Paraguay
Consular Section



IV) Preparation and shipment of whole remains - \$3,700 - \$4,500

Preparation of remains for shipment, including local collection of remains, embalming, provision and preparation of a lightweight coffin in accordance with established U.S. and international standards for shipment; preparation of all documentation, notification of consignee and delivery to the airport.

Funeral costs are not included in this estimate.

The carrier is responsible for the flight management and for preparing the destination guide.

V) Local disposition of remains - \$1,250 - \$3,380

Additional cost to be added to (I).

Lot prices can also vary widely depending on the location. In addition, the cost for opening a grave in a private cemetery is about \$280.

I. Exhumation

Requests for exhumation must be made to the court. Exhumed remains and their original casket/coffin must be contained in an outer casket/coffin for shipment. The cemetery charges a fee for grave-side services.

J. Remarks

The funeral homes on the Embassy's list are all based in Asunción. Facilities outside the capital are generally not familiar with international preparation and shipping standards. For deaths outside of Asunción, an additional fee per kilometer may be charged to cover travel costs.

Margatti Funeral Home

Address: Pai Perez 845 e/ Pettirossi y Teodoro S. Mongelos.

Asuncion, Paraguay

Contact: Manuel Martinez

Cell phones: 0971-207-597 and 0981-402-849

Telephone & Fax: (595-21) 207-880 and 211-248

Email: info@margatti.com

Website: <http://www.margatti.com/>

English speaking staff: Yes



U.S. Embassy
Asuncion, Paraguay
Consular Section



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Parque Serenidad Funeral Home

Address: Espana Av. 693 esq. Boqueron
Asuncion, Paraguay
Contact: Fernando Ibarra
Telephone: (595-21) 207-013; 211-452 and 212-456
Email: info@parqueserenidad.com
Website: <http://www.parqueserenidad.com/>
English speaking staff: Yes

Prevision – Crichigno E.U.S.A. Funeral Home

Address: Manuel Dominguez 208 e/ Yegros.
Asuncion, Paraguay
Contact: Carolina Duarte, Marta or Carlos Crichigno (0991-867-000)
Cell phones: 0991-204-151
Telephone & Fax: (595-21) 449-998; 498-804 and 492-776
Email: info@crichigno.biz
English speaking staff: Yes

The above funeral homes provide all types of mortuary services and have experience in preparation and shipment of remains to the United States and other countries. They also have refrigerated morgues.