

Information on Disposition of Remains

(Updated April 2020)

At this time, COVID-19 is a quarantinable communicable disease in the United States and the remains must meet the standards for importation found in 42 Code of Federal Regulations Part 71.55 and may be cleared, released, and authorized for entry into the United States only under the following conditions:

- The remains are cremated; OR
- The remains are properly embalmed and placed in a hermetically sealed casket; OR
- The remains are accompanied by a permit issued by the CDC Director. The CDC permit (if applicable) must accompany the human remains at all times during shipment.
 - Permits for the importation of the remains of a person known or suspected to have died from a quarantinable communicable disease may be obtained through the CDC Division of Global Migration and Quarantine by calling the CDC Emergency Operations Center at 770-488-7100 or emailing dgmqpolicyoffice@cdc.gov.

Please see [CDC's guidance](#) for additional information.

Part I. Name of Country

Republic of North Macedonia

Part II. U.S. Embassy Information

U.S. Embassy
Samoilova 21
1000 Skopje
North Macedonia
Tel: +389 (0)2 310-2000
Working Hours: Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.
After Hours Phone: +389 (0)2 310-2000

[Country Specific Information](#)

[Register with the U.S. Embassy](#)

Part III. Profile of Religions of the Host Country and Religious Services available to visitors

Country Profile: Visit the State Department's website "[Fact Sheet for North Macedonia](#)"

Religions: Macedonian Orthodox 65%, Muslim 33%, other religious groups 0.2% (2002)

Religious Activities for Visitors:

Catholic Religious Community

Petar Pop Arsov 47
1000 Skopje
Tel: +389 (0)2 3220-622; +389 (0)2 3229-167

International Church of Skopje

Website: www.icskopje.org

Macedonian Orthodox Church

Bul. Partizanski Odredi 10
1000 Skopje
Tel: +389 (0)2 3230-697
Website: www.mpc.org.mk

Islamic Religious Community

Cairska 52
1000 Skopje
Tel: +389 (0)2 3117-412
Website: www.bfi.mk

Part IV. Funeral Directors, Morticians and Related Services Available in North Macedonia

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy in Skopje, North Macedonia, assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Professional credentials and areas of expertise are reported to us by the funeral directors, morticians, and other service providers.

Skopje

BUTEL A.D. SKOPJE – Mortuary Services

Lazar Trpovski 67A
1000 Skopje,
Tel: +389 (0)2 2612-060
E-mail: butel@pogrebenservis.mk
Contact: Jovan Donevski, Executive Chief Operation Officer
Tel: +389 (0)2 3163-507 (available 24/7)
Mobile: +389 (0)70 244-813 (available 24/7)

Ohrid

“Miren Son”-Mortuary Services

15-ti Korpus, b.b.
6000 Ohrid
Tel/Fax: +389 (0)46 266-280
Email: mirensen@yahoo.com
Contact: Denis Shibakovski, Director
Mobile: +389 (0)70 212-830
+389 (0)78 212-830

Bitola

PURIN Mortuary Services

Karlovac 14

7000 Bitola

Tel: +389 (0)47 222-893

Mobile: +389 (0)70 395-232

Email: purin.tomislav@yahoo.com; eangelovska@hotmail.com

Contact: Tomislav Angelovski, Director

Mobile: +389 (0)70 207-749

Part V. Profile of services available in the host country regarding preparation and shipment of remains

When a U.S. citizen dies abroad, a consular officer notifies the U.S. citizen's next of kin (NOK) and works with family members to resolve practical problems arising from the death. Consular officers can assist family members in returning the deceased's remains to the United States but costs may be high and must be paid by the family. Consular officers also can act to protect the property and personal estate of a deceased U.S. citizen until such property can be turned over to NOK.

The Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Skopje stands ready to assist in the event of death of a U.S. citizen in North Macedonia. Depending on the circumstances of the death, our assistance may include notifying the next-of-kin of the deceased, helping with burial or transportation arrangements, providing of addresses of local funeral homes and local offices, explaining the procedure for obtaining a Macedonian death certificate from local authorities, and producing an official record of the death which can be used in the United States.

Disposition of Remains (general information)

The following general information is provided to assist families in their initial decisions. Indicated costs are estimates based on deaths with no unusual circumstances and should be considered for guidance purposes only. If the family elects to repatriate the remains, U.S. funeral home costs will be in addition to these costs.

The exchange rate of the U.S. Dollar and Macedonian Denar will also affect these costs.

(1) Maximum Period before Burial

There is no maximum period before burial. Remains can be refrigerated for two to three months, if necessary. The cost of refrigeration is approximately 1,200 denars (22USD) per day.

(2) Embalming

Embalming is not a regular service and is rarely performed in North Macedonia. The only institution competent to embalm remains is the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Skopje, located next to the State University Hospital at Mother Theresa 17 Street, tel: +389 (0)2 3177-044. The cost is approximately 180,000 denars (3,300USD)

(3) Cremation

Cremation is not available in North Macedonia.

(4) Caskets and Containers

Caskets and containers suitable for shipping remains outside the country are available in North Macedonia. Remains are placed in a metal casket, sealed in the presence of the police, a customs officer and a health inspector and then placed inside a wooden casket. The wooden casket is placed in a transportation casket. All companies listed above provide caskets; the cost varies by quality.

(5) Exportation of Remains

For repatriating remains to the United States, the funeral home must prepare the remains, make shipping arrangements with an airline, and obtain required documents for shipment.

To repatriate human remains, local authorities require the following documents:

1. Local death certificate
2. Passport of the deceased
3. Transit Permit issued by the State Sanitary and Health Inspectorate
4. Approval from the Sanitary Inspector
5. Autopsy certificate (if performed)

A licensed funeral home in the United States must accept the remains upon arrival. You will need to make arrangements for receipt with the funeral director of your choice. Preparation and air shipment are carried out in accordance with the laws of and facilities available in North Macedonia; in some cases, the services fall short of those expected in the United States. We recommend that you ask the U.S. funeral director to determine the advisability of viewing the remains after arrival.

(6) Costs

All fees are approximate and subject to change without notice.

Local Burial: Local burial is available in all municipalities in North Macedonia. Fees are governed by local city halls. Fees in Skopje, including collection and transportation of remains, wood casket, funeral home charges, administrative fees, and the cost of a burial plot in a public cemetery range from 1,000-2,000 USD.

Embalming: The cost of embalming is approximately 180,000 denars (3,300USD)

Preparation and Shipment of Remains: Fees include metal casket, preparation of documents, health inspection, sealing, transport from Pathology Institute to funeral home to airport and packing crate: 2,000–2,500USD.

The shipment cost is determined by the airline after the remains are accepted for shipment. The approximate weight of a casket prepared for shipment is 150-250 kilograms for an adult and 100 kilograms for a child.

The approximate cost for preparation and transportation of human remains to the United States is 5,000USD (2,000USD for preparation and 3,000USD for shipment.)

(7) Exhumation and Shipment:

Exhumation is permitted. Written permission is needed from the local health inspector and the local police. A written report is also required from the funeral home as to whether the body is in a fit state to be exhumed (how it was prepared and what sort of container it was buried in). Exhumation is permitted within one year or after seven years of burial. Between one and seven years of burial exhumation is not generally permitted.

If the next-of-kin or legal representative of a deceased decides to transport the remains for burial in the United States, a Macedonian funeral home must prepare the remains as required for air transportation.

After preparing the remains, the funeral home presents the required documentation (mentioned above) to the Consular Section to obtain a Consular Mortuary Certificate and a Report of Death of an American Citizen Abroad. The funeral home representative will then deliver the remains and paperwork to the airport cargo office for transportation to the United States.

(8) Autopsies:

In cases of a sudden and unexpected death of a foreign citizen in North Macedonia, an autopsy is mandatory under the Macedonian law to establish the cause of death. The U.S. Embassy cannot prevent the authorities from conducting an autopsy if required, nor can it request one when not required under local law. When the autopsy has been completed (usually within two days), the body is transferred to the city morgue.

(9) Remarks:

Many factors, including autopsies, transportation, or local holidays, affect the amount of time required to prepare the remains for return to the United States. Because of these many variables, it is best not to make final plans for a funeral service in the United States until the Embassy and funeral home with which you are working can provide a firm timetable.

The Embassy cannot authorize any preparation of remains until the funeral home receives payment. Therefore, it is imperative that the necessary funds and instructions are provided as soon as possible. The Embassy is not able to provide any financial assistance but can facilitate the transfer of funds from the United States.

If costs are to be borne by relatives or friends in the United States, the quickest means of transmission is to make an arrangement directly with the mortuary service to transfer funds electronically.

Money can be transferred from the U.S. using private companies, such as Western Union, or via the Department of State's OCS/TRUST system. Information on money transfers is available on: <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/abroad/legal-matters/benefits/sending-money.html>

For more information on death of U.S. citizens abroad, please visit [the State Department's travel website](#).

