



**Consulate General of the United States of America
U.S. Citizen Services Unit**

Paigah Palace, 1-8-323 Chiran Fort Lane, Begumpet
Secunderabad, Telangana, India 500 003

Phone: 91-40-4033-8300 Fax: 91-40-4033-8306

E-mail: HydACS@state.gov, <http://in.usembassy.gov>

Disposition of a U.S. Citizen's Remains in India

The U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad serves U.S. Citizens in the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Odisha.

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad, India 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 in 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.

U.S. Consulate General, Hyderabad, India:

Paigah Palace
1-8-323, Chiran Fort Lane
Begumpet, Secunderabad - 500003

Website: www.in.usembassy.gov

Email: hydacs@state.gov

State Department Country Specific Information:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/india.html>

State Department Travel information

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/alertswarnings.html>

Enrollment with the U.S. Consulate General

<https://step.state.gov/>

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

Country profile: See "Background Note: India"

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3454.htm>

Religious Activities for visitors: See Post Reports online for Hyderabad

http://diplopedia.state.gov/wiki/Hyderabad,_India_Post_Report

Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services Available in U.S. Consulate General Hyderabad:

Name	Contact Person	Address	Phone Number	Email Address	Locations covered	Services
Kumar & Company	Umeshwar Sangam	1-3-183/40/79 SBI Colony, Near LIC Zonal Office, Gandhi Nagar, Hyderabad 500084	91-98483-90879 91-97018-58888	undertakers@ku marandco.com, svambulance.Hy d@gmail.com	Throughout India	All undertaker services including customs clearance
John Pinto Int'l Private Ltd.	John Pinto	28, Ready Money Building, Shop #7, Clara Road, Byculla, Mumbai Central Mumbai 400008	91- 9820239409, 91-9869433609	johnpintointl@yahoo.co.in	Throughout India	All undertaker services including customs clearance
A-N International	Adil Khan	1-11-251/5, Flat No 3 Vishnu Bhavan, , Secunderabad - 500016	91 98490-28011, 91-98498-71801		Telangana & Andhra Pradesh	All undertaker services including customs clearance
Kumar International	Rajani	#17/2 , Krishna Reddy Building, Kariyanna Layout, Hebbal Ring road, Bangalore - 560024	91-96062-22446, 91-98442-60617	kumarinternationalbangalore@gmail.com	Throughout India	All undertaker services including customs clearance
Heaven Bound Funeral Services	Ivor Fernandez	Shed # 1/B, 1-6- 44, Muthyam Reddy Estate Near Yadamma Nagar, Kanajiguda Off Military Farm Road Secunderabad 500015	91-98494-39580, 91-93999-41915	heavenboundfuneralservices@gmail.com	Hyderabad and Secunderabad	Funeral and Embalming Services

Profile of services available in the host country regarding preparation and shipment of remains:

1. Maximum period before burial:

Local regulations require that the deceased must be cremated, buried or embalmed preferably within 24 hours of the death. Only embalmed remains can be held in cold storage until further instructions are received from the next of kin for consignment of the remains. Refrigerators and other cooling facilities are limited and subject to power outages. In the event attempts to locate next-of-kin have failed, most often the local police facilitate cremation of unclaimed remains, or the remains may be handed over to a teaching medical institution or a hospital for the purpose of anatomical examination.

2. Embalming:

Embalming is only required when remains are to be repatriated, not for local burial. Embalming facilities are available at all major cities in the consular district. Embalming procedures can only commence with permission from local authorities. The local customs and health department officials are cooperative in emergencies. Delays are encountered when deaths occur outside of regular business hours, when the death occurs in a place other than a hospital or when there is no medical attendant present. Although embalming is performed by a number of facilities, standards and materials used may not match U.S. standards.

3. Cremation:

Local law permits open air cremation or usage of an electric crematorium. Cremated remains are returned to the next-of-kin in an urn along with a cremation certificate. Ashes may be scattered following cremation.

4. Caskets and Containers:

When the remains are to be repatriated internationally, the body is first embalmed and prepared for shipment. The usual procedure is to place the embalmed remains in a zinc coffin within a wooden coffin, which is finally placed in a suitable packing case. The cost varies with the quality of material used. Export quality caskets and shipping containers, which meet the requirements, are available for shipment out of the country.

5. Exportation of Remains:

Remains may be exported when fully embalmed and placed in a hermetically sealed container.

To export remains, the following documents are required:

- (a) Official death certificate or post-mortem report (cause of death may or may not be listed in the post-mortem report);
- (b) Permission letter from Police to ship the remains
- (c) Embalming certificate issued by the medical practitioner;
- (d) Consular Report of Death Abroad
- (e) Consular Mortuary Certificate issued by a Consular Officer;
- (f) Affidavit by the funeral director attesting to contents, the embalming and the hermetical casket sealing.
- (g) Copy of the deceased's passport

Human Ashes: To export ashes, the following documents are required:

- (a) Cremation certificate issued by the crematorium;
- (b) Official death certificate (cause of death may or may not be mentioned)
- (c) Consular Report of Death Abroad
- (d) Consular mortuary certificate issued by a consular officer (required by the airlines).
- (e) Affidavit by the undertaker attesting to contents of the hermetically sealed container.

6. Costs:

The estimated charges shown below are based on the [U.S. Consulate Exchange Rate](#). All costs are approximate and are based on the quotations received from the undertaker.

Local burial in cemetery:

Estimated local burial costs include land charges, a masonry grave liner, a casket prepared to regulation specifications, legal documentation and funeral director fees **\$1000 - \$1500**

Local Cremation:

Estimated cremation costs include transportation of remains to the crematorium, and use of a hearse, cremation fees, funeral director's fees, and the container for ashes. **\$1000 - \$1500**

Cremation and shipment of ashes by air to U.S:

Estimated cost includes casket, use of a hearse, crematorium charges, container of ashes and undertaker fees. Air shipment charges for cremated ashes are not included; the cost is calculated as per airway bill and destination. **\$1500 - \$2500**

Embalming and shipment of human remains by air to the U.S:

Price includes embalming, necessary packing cases (casket, inner zinc box and outer packing case) sealing, labor, legal documentation, local transportation and charges of the funeral director and air shipment estimates **\$3,500 - \$4000**

In addition to the cost indicated above, the following are the air shipment estimates for 80 kilos from New Delhi to:

East Coast (New York) \$4000

West Coast (Los Angeles) \$5000

NOTE: All prices quoted above are estimated shipping costs only and may be subject to change. Cost may vary based on the location and the undertaker. Air shipment estimates vary depending on the destination in the U.S.

7. Exhumation:

Remains may be exhumed provided the required permits are obtained from the local magistrate. A statement is required to accompany the request for exhumation to indicate if the remains are being exhumed for reburial or cremation.

8. Autopsies:

In India autopsies, also known as postmortems or postmortem examinations may be performed at the request of the authorities in cases of unexplained and suspicious deaths, or where a physician did not attend the death. In other circumstances, post-mortem examinations may be performed only with the consent of the deceased's family or with permission granted by the person himself before death. Generally, an autopsy is only done when there is some doubt as to the cause of death, although the family of the deceased can always request an autopsy even if the hospital does not think it is necessary. The time taken to establish the medical cause of death may

take up to 26 weeks and sometimes longer. There is no waiver of autopsy available, even for religious objections, if the local authorities deem it necessary.

9. Local Customs Regarding Funerals, Disposition of Remains, Mourning, Memorial Services:

In India a funeral wake may be performed at home. The most common funeral custom per Hinduism is cremation. Ashes are collected after three or four days and dispersed in a river or other place of importance to the deceased person. A family priest conducts the service. Muslims and Christians follow burial practices.

Church membership is required for seeking burial space at a Christian cemetery.

Per local customs mourning periods and memorial services are observed after the funeral. Days of observance varies per family tradition and religions. Muslims and Christians visit the cemetery and offer prayers at the place of worship. Hindus perform religious ceremonies on the eleventh day after the funeral.

Mourners at Indian funerals wear casual white attire. Per religious preferences, women may or may not participate in the last rites at the cemetery/crematorium. Most often, an open casket funeral ritual is followed in India. Customs vary per religious denomination.