



# MINISTRY OF HEALTH & WELLNESS

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## **Requirements for International Transportation of Human Remains**

The following documents shall be required for the approval and shipment of corpse:

- (a) An official certificate of cause of death (**Original or authenticated copy of the Death Certificate**).
  - (b) An official certificate of embalming (**Original or authenticated copy**) by the person/ funeral parlor authorized to prepare the remains indicating that manner and method in which the body was prepared.
  - (c) **A transfer permit (*laissez-passer*)**  
(This should state the surname, first name and age, date and cause of death of the deceased person issued by the competent authority of the place of death, or the place of burial in the case of exhumed human remains)
  - (d) **Official Photograph ID of deceased** individual. (Passport, Driver's License or Social Security Card)
  - (e) **Official Photograph ID of Next of Kin.** ((Passport, Driver's License or Social Security Card)
  - (f) ***Name of Funeral home that will be managing the remain in country.***
  - (g) **Travel Itinerary from point of departure to arrival in Belize.** This should name the point of exit from country, date and time of flight or ground travel, date of arrival at Point of Entry in Belize.
  - (h) **All documentation shall be notarized by a Notary Public.**
  - (i) All above documents must be submitted to:
    - a. Director of Public Health & Wellness [dhsmoh@health.gov.bz](mailto:dhsmoh@health.gov.bz)
- And copied to:
- b. Principal Public Health Inspector [jbodden@health.gov.bz](mailto:jbodden@health.gov.bz)
  - c. Senior Public Health Inspector [lmartin@health.gov.bz](mailto:lmartin@health.gov.bz)

### **NB.**

**A Copy of Death Certificate, Embalming Certificate, and Transit permit** shall accompany the shipment of remains. The outside of the coffin should bear an immovable plaque or other appropriate marking, in a conspicuous place, indicating name, age and place of final destination of the body.

### **Shipment Requirements**

Human remains prepared for international shipment must be placed in an impervious coffin.

- Where the cause of death was by a quarantinable disease, the human remains must be embalmed (arterial and cavity) and placed in an impervious coffin. In the event embalming is unable to be performed the bottom of coffin has to be covered with 5 cm of absorbent matter with addition of an antiseptic substance. Where the cause of death was contagious the corpse itself must be wrapped in a shroud soaked in an antiseptic solution.
- Conveyance of corpse of persons deceased by reason of, plague, cholera, small- pox, typhus shall not be authorized until one year after the time of death.

*\* The coffin must be hermetically sealed. \**

### **Transportation by land, air or sea**

In case of transportation by road, the impervious coffin must be transported in closed automobile (van or truck) and placed in such a way to prevent movement.

In the case of transportation by air the impervious coffin may be conveyed in the baggage compartment of the passenger aircraft or in a cargo aircraft.

In the case of transportation by sea the impervious coffin must be packed in an ordinary wooden case, or one made of other materials, or may be placed in specially designed fabric container.

### **Common Provision**

Regardless of the mode of transportation, wreaths, flowers and other similar articles may be sent with the coffin only when it is permitted or have the specific authorization to do so.

### **Final Provisions**

*All requirements as set forth herein by the Ministry of Health & Wellness must be met before the necessary approval can be granted and all original documents must be presented at point of entry on arrival of the corpse.*

**For further information, kindly contact:**

**Office of the Director of Public Health & Wellness  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor East Block Building  
Independence Plaza  
City of Belmopan  
Cayo District  
Belize, C.A.  
Telephone: (501) 822-2325 / 2363 / 828-4461.**

Please also give us a minimum of three days to process your request.