

2800 Andres Bello
Las Condes
Santiago, Chile

FAX (562)-2330-3710
TEL (562)-2330-3000
SantiagoUSA@state.gov

UNCLASSIFIED
MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 17, 2018

TO: Department of State (CA/OCS/ACS/)
WHA

From: U.S. Embassy, Santiago, Chile

Subject: Death: Disposition of Remains Report

REF: 7 FAM 260

The following report is submitted in accordance with the referenced requirements. Various area mortuaries were surveyed in order to compile this data. The laws cited are from the national law of Chile.

The Applicable Chilean laws and regulations are national in scope:

- [Sanitary Code, Decree No. 725 of December 11, 1967](#)
- [General Regulations of Cemeteries, Decree No 357 of May 1970](#)
- [Civil Registry law, Decree No. 4808 of February 10, 1930](#)
- [Criminal Procedural Code of September 29, 2000](#)

Part I Chile

Part II U.S. Embassy, Consular Section, Santiago, Chile

Andres Bello 2800, Las Condes, Santiago
Phone: 56-2-2330 3716
After hours phone: 56-2-2330 3000
Email: SantiagoUSA@state.gov

[Consular Information Sheet, Public Announcement or Travel Warning](#)

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

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

Country Profile: [Host Country Religions](#)

[Religious Activities For Visitors](#)

Part IV. Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services Available in the Host Country:

- 1- Funerales Carrasco Hermanos: <http://www.funerariacarrasco.cl/>
- 2- Funerales De La Fuente Oyaneder: <http://www.delafuentefunerales.cl/>
- 3- Funerales Hogar de Cristo: <https://www.funerariahogardecristo.cl>
- 4- Funerales Cubillos: <https://es-la.facebook.com/Funerales-Cubillos-Vi%C3%B1a-277497439383181/>
- 5- Servicios Funerarios Sagrado Corazon: <http://funerariasagradocorazon.cl/>

Disclaimer:

The U.S Embassy in Santiago, Chile, assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the aforementioned persons or funeral service providers. The order in which they appear has no particular significance. Professional credentials and areas of expertise are provided directly by the funeral directors, morticians and other service providers.

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

- a. There are different options regarding the disposition of the remains. They can be buried in Chile or preserved and transported to another location, such as the United States. Traditional embalming is not allowed in Chile per Chilean Law. Cremation is another option and the ashes can be transported out of Chile, if desired.
- b. A funeral home will help obtain the necessary documents from the various government agencies and arrange for the preparation and transport of the remains or ashes. Funeral homes are unable to begin work until payment is made. The quality of the vast majority of the funeral services in Chile is good.
- c. Autopsies are ordered by the Public Prosecutor's Office in the following circumstances:
 1. Violent death, either accidental or intentional. In the case of intentional death: suicide and homicide;
 2. Death occurring on the street or in a public place;

3. Undetermined cause of death under suspicious circumstances;
 4. Any patient that is dead upon arrival at an emergency medical center or dies shortly after being admitted to the emergency medical center and the cause cannot be determined.
 5. Any patient whose death results in a legal suit even when death is due to medical cause, for example, in the case of medical liability, if at the moment of the demise it is stipulated that legal action will be taken.
 6. When the deceased cannot be identified by the fingerprints even if the death is due to medical cause.
- d. In-country transportation can be done by land or air. There are daily flights from all Regions to Santiago, but there could be delays in winter time (specially, in the southern part of Chile). All remains that will be transported to another country will depart from Santiago International Airport. There are four major companies that have daily direct flights to the U.S.A: American Airlines, Delta, Latam and United Airlines. If the next of kin would like to transport the remains to the United States, either the mortal remains or ashes, they will need a Certificate to Transport Remains (Certificado de Traslado) or Certificate to Transport Ashes (Certificado de Traslado Internacional de Cenizas). The certificates need to be legalized at the Ministry of Foreign Relations ([Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores de Chile](#)).
 - e. The Chilean Ministry of Health is responsible for licensing funeral directors and morticians. [www.minsal.cl](#).
 - f. The cause of death will be established by a certified medical doctor (if the patient died at his home or hospital). If an autopsy is performed, the cause of death will be established by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, known in Chile as the "Servicio Medico Legal" [www.sml.cl](#) . As soon as the cause of death has been determined the local Vital Records Office, known as the "Servicio de Registro Civil e Identificacion" [www.registrocivil.cl](#) will issue the death certificate (certificado de defuncion). This is a public document and it can be obtained by anyone.
- (1) **Maximum Period before Burial:** Chilean Law No. 4808, Article 46, stipulates that interment cannot take place earlier than 24 hours after death. Article 48 in General Regulations for Cemeteries by Chile's Sanitary Code stipulates that no corpse may remained unburied for more than 48 hours after death except under the following exceptions:
1. When ordered by the judicial authority or National Public Health Service for investigation purposes;
 2. When a corpse has not been claimed and is used for scientific research in accordance with the Sanitary Code, Article 145;

3. When the corpse has been embalmed and previous authorization was granted by the National Public Health Service;

4. When the corpse was donated in life for scientific research.

- (2) **Preservation:** Traditional embalming is not allowed in Chile. Only preservation can be performed but not all funeral homes are capable of performing this service. Preservation of the remains up to 30 days is possible.
- (3) **Cremation:** Cremation is permitted by national law. There are adequate cremation facilities in Santiago and other cities in Chile. A cremation consent act must be executed in life before a notary public. In absence of this document, the following family member (in the order shown) must request cremation: 1) the surviving spouse; the majority of the adult children; surviving parent(s). In absence of a next of kin, the person responsible for the interment may request the cremation. In the case of the death of a foreign person without a next of kin in Chile, the diplomatic or consular officer may request the cremation on behalf of the next of kin in the country of origin/residence.
- (4) **Caskets and Containers:** Caskets must have a metallic lining and be hermetically sealed. In addition to this requirement, the casket must be encased in a strong wooden container when the remains will be shipped out of the country. All such caskets and containers are available in Chile.
- (5) **Exportation of Human Remains:** The following Chilean documents accompany the casket encased in a strong wooden container when shipped out of the country:
- 1) Chilean Official Death Certificate issued by the Civil Registry Office;
 - 2) Burial Permit issued by the Civil Registry Office;
 - 3) A written statement executed by the licensed physician that performed the preservation in which it is stated that the deceased did not die of a contagious disease and that the remains can be shipped to the United States without a health risk.
 - 4) National Public Health Service Permit attesting to compliance of the casket and outer case as required for shipment of the remains; and attesting to the fact that the National Public Health Service Inspector sealed the casket containing the corpse; and ordering that seal shall not be tampered with or destroyed prior to arrival of the casket at the final destination; and authorizing the shipment of the remains out of the country.
 - 5) Statement executed by the funeral home representative attesting to the fact that the casket and contains only the remains of the deceased and necessary clothing and packing material.
- (6) **Exportation of Human Cremains/Ashes:**
- The following Chilean documents must accompany the ashes when shipped out of the country:

- 1) Official Chilean Death Certificate issued by the Civil Registry Office;
- 2) Certificate issued by the Crematorium stating that the remains of the deceased were cremated and placed in a sealed urn.

(7) **Costs:**

Charges are based on the exchange rate of October 17, 2018: US\$1.00=670 (local currency)

Remarks: Remains may only be shipped to the United States from the Santiago International Airport. Therefore, national transport fees to Santiago must be factored in when death occurs outside of Santiago. The prices quoted above for funeral services in Chile are average costs as provided by five distinct funeral homes.

Funeral Service for local Interment

US\$1,000.00 - \$2,500.00

Funeral Service and Cremation of the Remains

US\$2,000.00 - \$4,000.00

Funeral Service and preservation for Shipment to the U.S.

US\$5,000.00 - \$10,000.00

Air shipment of Ashes

US\$2,500.00 - \$4,500.00

- (8) **Exhumation and Shipment:** The next of kin must request disinterment of the remains. The cemetery authority must inspect the casket to determine the possibility of the exhumation depending on the state of the remains. Disinterment is not generally possible before 8 years when interment is in above- ground columbarium niche, or 5 years when buried underground. If the remains are to be removed from the cemetery to be transported within the country or out of the country, a permit must be obtained through the National Public Health Service.

(9) **Local Customs Regarding Funerals, Disposition of Remains, mourning, Memorial Services:**

Most Chileans pay tribute to their loved ones who have died. Following death a funeral is held at a church or cemetery where family and friends assist to the religious service. Most Chilean prefers graves, but in recent years there has been a significant increase in cremation. On November 1st, Chileans visit the cemeteries to bring flowers to the grave of family members (All Saints Day).