

DISPOSITION OF REMAINS REPORT



The following information is submitted to provide current data on Greek Law concerning the disposition of remains:

A. MAXIMUM PERIOD BEFORE BURIAL

According to the regulations of the Greek Decree of May 18, 1935, "Regarding Necroscopy", promulgated by the Greek Health Center, Ministry of Hygiene:

(1) When the body is embalmed, burial should take place within (20) days if the embalmed body is not placed in a zinc container.

(2) When the body is not embalmed, the minimum period before burial is twelve (12) hours, and the maximum period is twenty (20) hours, during summer period (May-October) and thirty (30) hours during winter period (November-April).

B. EMBALMING

According to the above decree, bodies should be embalmed prior to incipience of decay, or within 48 hours after death. However, bodies may be temporarily preserved at refrigeration facilities, which are located at the University of Thessaloniki Medical School, for a maximum of ten (10) days prior to embalming. Bodies are embalmed at the morgue that is located at the University of Thessaloniki Medical School. In exceptional cases, if shipment of remains is desired, bodies may be disinterred and embalmed after burial takes place. This procedure can be effected only upon authorization of the District Attorney of the area and with the approval of the Coroner of Thessaloniki who must attend the disinterment. The Coroner of Thessaloniki then issues the appropriate certificates that are required for the exportation of remains.

C. AUTOPSY

Autopsy is mandatory when a violent or sudden death occurs, or when the deceased was hospitalized less than 24 hours, except when there is a diagnosis.

Coroners employed by the Greek Ministry of Justice and Universities are responsible for performing autopsies. Autopsies are authorized by District Attorneys and Police Authorities.

D. CREMATION

Religious and Greek civil laws do not permit cremation in Greece. Therefore, there are no cremation facilities in Greece. Some local funeral homes may take the embalmed body for cremation to neighboring countries, where cremation is permitted and make necessary arrangements to forward ashes to final destination.

E. MAJOR RELIGIONS

96% of the permanent population professes the Greek Orthodox faith, the remaining 4% being divided between Roman Catholics, Protestants, Moslems, Jews, and Gregorian Armenians. However, there are currently a large number of temporary residents (guest workers, refugees, etc.) of other professions of faith, many of whom may ultimately become permanent residents. While customs pertaining to death and burial are dominated by Greek Orthodox practice, numerous mortuaries are well acquainted with and able to effectuate most practices of other religions and traditions.

F. CASKETS AND CONTAINERS

When the remains of a deceased person are to be transported out of Greece, the remains are placed in a zinc casket that is hermetically sealed by soldering. Hermetically-sealed metal caskets, such as those used in the United States, are not manufactured in Greece. Although these caskets are now available in a few funeral homes, they are seldom used owing to their (up to \$5,000) high price. Therefore, a simple metal container prepared locally, and made airtight by soldering, is commonly used. The casket is enclosed in a hardwood coffin of approximately 30 mm thickness. For shipment by air, the wooden coffin is placed in a wooden shipping case.

G. FUNERAL HOMES

Following is a list of funeral homes in Thessaloniki provided for death cases involving US citizens, with the disclaimer that this list does not constitute an endorsement and that the fee and method of payment should be negotiated directly by the relative/friend concerned and the funeral home chosen:

KONSTANTINOS MAVRIDIS FUNERAL HOME
Agiou Dimitriou 147
54631 Thessaloniki
Tel.: 2310-206032, Fax: 2310-203906
Cell Phone: 6945-467849

DARAVINGAS FUNERAL HOME
Vasilissis Olgas 41
Thessaloniki
Tel. 2310-830924
www.daraviga.gr

CHRYSIDIS BROS. FUNERAL HOME
Eleftherias 43, Triandia
Thessaloniki
Tel. 2310-924111

BABOULAS FUNERAL HOME
Vasilissis Olgas 72
Thessaloniki
Tel. 2310-869250, Fax: 2310-869251
Cell Phone: 6944-315827

H. EXPORTATION OF REMAINS

Local requirements for the exportation of human remains are as follows (as described in Articles 115, 116, 117 and 118 of the Royal Decree of February 21, 1940, regarding Health Regulations of Land and Sea):

1. Embalming of remains.
2. Enclosure of the remains as described in paragraph D above in the presence of a representative of the Customs House (according to Greek Customs and Foreign Exchange regulations).
3. Permit issued by the Administration of Social Services, Ministry of Hygiene and Social Services, for transfer of remains.
4. Special permit for exporting the body, issued by the Customs House.
5. Death Certificate issued by the local Registrars Office.
6. Certificate of Embalming issued by the Coroner.

I. COSTS

All dollar costs have been converted from the cost in local currency (EUROS). **\$0.85 = EURO 1**

NOTE: The grave costs are representing the main Thessaloniki Christian Orthodox cemetery called "Anastaseos tou Kyriou". In smaller cemeteries, and other cities or towns in Northern Greece, prices are lower.

1. Local interment without embalming in temporary (rented) grave:

CLASSES	DOLS	EUROS
A. FIRST CLASS		
Burial Expenses	1,765	1,500
Grave Cost	1,047	890
TOTAL:	2,812	2,390
B. SECOND CLASS		
Burial Expenses	1,530	1,300
Grave Cost	765	650
TOTAL:	2,295	1,950

2. Local interment without embalming in permanent grave (purchased family grave):

CLASSES	DOLS	EUROS
A. FIRST CLASS		
Burial Expenses	1,765	1,500
Grave Cost	29,412	25,000
TOTAL:	31,177	26,500
B. SECOND CLASS		
Burial Expenses	1,530	1,300
Grave Cost	23,530	20,000
TOTAL:	25,060	21,300

NOTE: If price of permanent grave is paid in one installment, there is a 10% discount. It can be paid in installments as follows: 40% in one installment, and then the balance of 60% in 6 installments.

The permit fee for the construction of a permanent grave costs approximately \$80.

3. EMBALMING: \$ 236 - EUROS 200

4. Preparation for shipment (including embalming, documentation, container, casket and coffin, delivery to airport and funeral home fee) (airport fee is separate):

\$ 3,530 - EUROS 3,000

5. When death occurs in another city of the Thessaloniki consular district, remains may be

transferred to Thessaloniki for preparation. Estimates of transportation costs between Thessaloniki and the major cities of Northern Greece (Thessaloniki consular district) are as follows:

The cost is approximately 5 Euros (\$5,88) per kilometer. Transportation costs are calculated on a return trip basis. To each of following amounts, an addition \$300 should be calculated, for funeral home expenses.

6. AIRFREIGHT

The average weight of casket and containers required for export of remains is 250 kilograms (approx. 500 pounds). Listed below are prices for air freight shipment from Thessaloniki to various points in the continental United States:

COST PER KILO	DOLS	EUROS	FOR 250 KG
Thess -New York	3.71	3.15	\$928
Thess - Washington	3.94	3.35	\$985
Thess - Chicago	4.94	4.20	\$1,235
Thess -Dallas	4.98	4.23	\$1,245
Thess -San Francisco	5.25	4.46	\$1,313

7. TOTAL COST

Below are prices for preparation (including embalming) and freight of shipment of remains from Thessaloniki to U.S. cities:

THESSALONIKI TO	DOLLARS
New York	4,458
Washington	4,515
Chicago	4,765
Dallas	4,775
San Francisco	4,843

A fee of approximately 100 Euros (\$118) should be added for airline and airport taxes.

J. EXHUMATION AND SHIPMENT

In accordance with the regulations contained in the Code of Municipal Cemeteries, Chapter C, "Exhumation of Bones", Article 15, Paragraph A:

"The exhumation of bones of deceased people buried in local cemeteries, in graves rented for three years, is done three years after burial."

Article 4 of the above Code states:

"Regarding the three-year burial, if, within three months of the expiration of the three-year period, the relatives of the deceased do not take any action as to the exhumation of the bones, the cemetery service, at its own initiative, exhumes the bones whenever they find it necessary, and then the bones are placed in a piscina...."

Extensions of the exhumation of bones may be requested at the municipal cemetery authority:

- Extension of the three-year period is authorized only by the Mayor of the city.
- If authorized, you pay additional 50% of the third year, depending on burial class.
- The use of refrigerator is 55 Euros (\$65) per day and the hall they keep the dead 30 Euros (\$25.5) per day.
- Exhumation costs \$40 for placement of bones into the piscine, and \$60 for placement of bones in a box and into the mortuary chapel.
- For the first 3 years cost is \$40 per year. For additional years, \$60 per year.
- If exhumation is desired prior to the three-year prescribed period, it can be effected only upon the authorization of the District Attorney of the area.
- Those buried in (perpetual) family lots, are buried indefinitely or until another member of the family is to be buried in the same grave.
- Preparation of bones for shipment to the United States, not including airfreight, is approximately 1,000 Euros (\$1,177). Airfreight is estimated per kilo of weight cost given in Paragraph 6.

