



British Embassy Montevideo

BEREAVEMENT INFORMATION: GUIDANCE FOR NEXT OF KIN (NOK)

The death of a relative or a friend can be a traumatic experience. When deaths happen overseas, family and friends in the UK may feel additional distress as they are unfamiliar with foreign procedures and perhaps they are unable to communicate in the language of the foreign country concerned. Consular Directorate of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London and our Embassy in Montevideo are ready to help as much as possible. You might be uncertain about what to do next or who to contact for advice. These notes are designed to help you through the practical arrangements and decisions you will need to make. (You should be aware that Uruguayan procedures differ significantly from those in the United Kingdom and that, while we understand your need for arrangements to be made quickly, this is not always possible).

WHAT STEPS HAVE TO BE TAKEN WHEN A PERSON PASSES AWAY IN URUGUAY?

Please be advised that all the procedures explained below are extremely bureaucratic. You should ensure that you have all the necessary paperwork before arranging a repatriation, burial, cremation, autopsy or embalming. We can give you advice and provide you with a list of local undertakers. Once you have designated a local undertaker to make the arrangements on your behalf, they will be in charge of obtaining all the required paperwork according to your instructions. If there is an insurance policy in place, the UK insurance company and designated UK funeral home will instruct the local undertaker and will coordinate the relevant payment. We shall oversee the relevant arrangements if necessary.

MORTUARY FACILITIES

There are cold storage facilities in Montevideo as well as some of the main cities in the interior of the country.

DEATH REGISTRATION

It is mandatory that any death occurring in Uruguay be registered. A Death Certificate in Spanish will be issued by the General Registry Office in Uruguay; this is likely to take two days at most. Uruguay's Death Certificates will state the cause of death, as would be the case in the UK. You may register the death at the British Embassy and/or apply for a certified copy of the Death Certificate if you wish to do so. This carries a statutory fee.

PROCEDURES AND NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION

Below, you will be able to find a short description of the procedures available in Uruguay and a table showing which documents must be presented in each case.

REPATRIATION

The repatriation of remains to another country lies under mortuaries' or funeral directors' responsibility. We may contact them on your behalf to enquire about repatriation costs if you wish. Nonetheless, appointing an international funeral director for repatriation is the next of kin's responsibility. The undertakers together with the cargo agent or airline officer take the necessary documentation for repatriation to customs at the local airport.

Please note that with regards to organs, when the conservation of a body takes place, these may not be removed from the body. This may only be done if the deceased person is a registered organ donor at the Banco Nacional de Órganos (by self authorisation or by members of the family) or when the forensic doctor considers that a pathology or toxicology test must be run on a specific organ. In such cases the procedure is stated in the report issued by the forensic doctor.

BURIAL

Local burial in Uruguay is a possibility. It normally takes place within 24 hours after the death; however, this is not always the case.

CREMATION

Although cremation is not common practice in Uruguay, there are cremation facilities in Montevideo and in Canelones.*

** Please bear in mind that if a local burial or cremation are performed in Uruguay there are no possibilities for an inquest to take place in the UK.*

AUTOPSIES

Under Uruguayan law, an autopsy is obligatory if a person dies from a violent or sudden incident or outside of a hospital. The judicial police pathologists are responsible for carrying out autopsies. If a person dies in hospital or from an illness lasting more than 24 hours, an autopsy is not obligatory. If you would like an autopsy to be carried out please see the table below for the documents that would be needed.

EMBALMING

Most mortuaries in Uruguay provide an embalming service to preserve the remains.

NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION FOR EACH PROCESS

Repatriation	Burial	Cremation	Autopsies	Embalming
Death Certificate issued by the treating doctor or forensic doctor.	Death Certificate issued by the treating doctor or forensic doctor.	Death Certificate issued by the treating doctor or forensic doctor.	Death Certificate issued by the treating doctor or forensic doctor.	Death Certificate issued by the treating doctor or forensic doctor.
Death Certificate issued by local General Register Office (<i>Registro Civil</i>).	Death Certificate issued by local General Register Office (<i>Registro Civil</i>).	Death Certificate issued by local General Register Office (<i>Registro Civil</i>).	Registration of Death Certificate at the local General Register Office.	Registration of Death Certificate at the local General Register Office.
Conservation Certificate issued by the Salubrity Office (<i>Dirección de Salubridad</i>) of the relevant Town Hall (<i>Intendencia</i>).	Certificate of Identification of Remains issued by the Judicial Police and District Prosecutor (<i>Fiscalía</i>) for violent and/or sudden death (if applicable).	Certificate of Identification of Remains issued by the Judicial Police and District Prosecutor (<i>Fiscalía</i>) for violent and/or sudden death (if applicable).	Certificate of Identification of Remains issued by the Judicial Police and District Prosecutor (<i>Fiscalía</i>) for violent and/or sudden death (if applicable).	Certificate of Identification of Remains issued by the Judicial Police and District Prosecutor (<i>Fiscalía</i>) for violent and/or sudden death (if applicable).
Next of Kin Authorisation	Next of Kin Authorisation	Next of Kin Authorisation	-	-
Air Waybill Bill issued by the cargo company or airline.	-	Autopsy Report (if applicable)	Autopsy Report (if applicable)	Autopsy Report (if applicable)
Legalisation of all documents by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (<i>Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores</i>) and by the British Embassy.	-	Certification of the signature of the doctor to be submitted to the Montevideo or Canelones Town Hall (<i>Intendencia</i>).	-	Sanitary Certificate issued and Preservation of Remains Protocol Sanitary Department from the City Hall.
-	-	Cremation letter issued by the Town Hall.	-	-

- **Deceased at a health centre:** The Death Certificate is issued by the health centre.
- **Deceased outside a health centre:** The Death Certificate is issued either by the forensic doctor or by the family's General Practitioner.

RETURN OF PERSONAL EFFECTS

Personal effects are normally returned to the family. However, if the person suffered a sudden death and there are no NOK in Uruguay, the NOK and/or executor of estate in the UK need to send us a “Statutory Declaration” certified by a Public Notary. Such declaration shall confirm that the items listed in the personal effects inventory were property of the deceased, and authorise the British Embassy in Montevideo to act on their behalf in the return of all personal effects.

This document should be submitted to the District Prosecutor in charge of the deceased case, giving reference of the detection/identification of remains and autopsy certificates, as well as of the personal effects report, issued by the judicial police. This process takes approximately 2 weeks.

FUNERAL HOMES IN MONTEVIDEO

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