



British Consular Network Brazil

INFORMATION SHEET RELATING TO DEATHS IN BRAZIL

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

The information contained in this document is not meant to be a definitive statement of the law, nor is it to be taken as a substitute for independent legal advice.

WHAT STEPS HAVE TO BE TAKEN WHEN A PERSON DIES IN BRAZIL?

Please be advised that all the procedures explained below can be 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 co-ordinate the relevant payment. We can monitor the relevant arrangements if necessary.

Autopsies (Post Mortems)

Always carried out, or only in certain circumstances?

A Post Mortem will be conducted if death occurred as a result of a violent nature, accident, or unknown reason. If the death occurs in the presence of a doctor, then a Post Mortem is not usually necessary.

Can organs be removed without consent during autopsy?

In the event of death, the Pathologist conducting the Post Mortem may remove human tissues, organs or part of it for analysis.

Are organs retained once removed?

Morgues usually remove only small parts of organs for analysis, but depending on the region in Brazil, especially in smaller towns and in the countryside, organs can be retained for further analysis and buried locally afterwards if the family does not request their return.

Are retained organs destroyed? When?

If organs were suspected to be infected with a contagious disease, then they would usually be incinerated.

Are next of kin informed when organs are removed and retained?

The removal of human tissue, organs, and other body parts may be necessary for Post Mortems. If it's proved necessary, the authorities will do it without the consent of the family, not necessarily informing them of the circumstances.

Can next of kin request the return of organs? How?

Yes. If it is a non-infected organ, the next of kin can request directly to the morgue or by writing to the Consulate and we will request on your behalf. If an organ is considered infected, the next of kin needs to make an application to a judge for the return of the organs. However, it would be rare for a judge to approve this type of request.

Is the autopsy report made available to the family? If not, how can they apply for a copy?

Yes. The next of kin can request directly to the morgue or by writing to the Consulate and we will request on your behalf.

Mortuary Facilities

Standards vary across Brazil. There are cold storage facilities in large cities, but in smaller towns, mortuaries can be very basic. Where cold storage facilities are not available, temporary burials might happen prior to cremation or repatriation.

Repatriation and Burial

Both local burial and cremation are possible (the latter only in certain cities in Brazil). Consult the Brazil Consular network on a case-by-case basis (www.gov.uk/world/brazil).

Burials and cremations usually take place very quickly in Brazil (sometimes within 24 hours of death), so the Next of Kin may be asked to make some quick decisions regarding funeral/repatriation arrangements.

Judicial authorisation for cremation is required if death occurred as a result of a violent nature, accident, or unknown reason. In these cases, the Next of Kin will need to appoint a local lawyer in order to start the judicial process. A list of English-speaking lawyers in Brazil is available on our website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/brazil-list-of-lawyers>

Inquests will not take place in the UK if a local burial or local cremation takes place.

DECLARATION OF DEATH

The declaration of death is usually issued by the doctor in attendance.

If a natural death occurred outside of a hospital, it is the funeral director's responsibility to have the person transported to the nearest hospital or Death Verification Service (*SVO – Serviço de Verificação de Óbito*) in order to have the declaration of death issued by a doctor.

If death occurred outside of hospital as a result of a violent nature, accident, or unknown reason, the person needs to be transported by ambulance to the Forensic Institute. In these cases, a forensic report will be issued after the Post Mortem is carried out.

REGISTRATION OF THE DEATH

It is mandatory that any death occurring in Brazil be registered. Local death certificates are issued in Portuguese, usually within 24 hours of death. If an autopsy is needed, the death certificate will only be issued after the initial forensic report.

In normal circumstances, the medical declaration of death (*Declaração de Óbito*), issued by the doctor, is enough to have the local death certificate issued. They give details of death, as would be the case in the UK.

Once a local death certificate is obtained, the Next of Kin may apply for a UK-style death certificate in the UK. More information is available on our website: <https://www.gov.uk/register-a-death/y/overseas>

PROCEDURES AND NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION

Below, you will be able to find a short description of the procedures available in Brazil and a table showing which documents must be presented in each case. Please note that procedures and documents might differ from one State to another.

REPATRIATION

The repatriation of remains to another country lies under mortuaries' or funeral directors' responsibility. We can provide you with a list of international funeral directors if you don't have insurance. 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 documents for repatriation to customs officers at the local airport.

AUTOPSIES

Under Brazilian law, an autopsy is obligatory if a person dies from a violent or sudden incident or outside of a hospital. The judicial coroners 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.

EMBALMING

Most mortuaries or Forensic Institutes in Brazil provide an embalming service to preserve mortal remains.

NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION

| Repatriation of Human Remains | Repatriation of Ashes | Burial | Cremation | Autopsies | Embalming |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Declaration of Death <i>(Atestado de óbito)</i> Issued by the treating doctor or forensic expert. Can also be issued by the Police or other authority, if necessary. It will be retained when registering the death. | Declaration of Death <i>(Atestado de óbito)</i> Issued by the treating doctor or forensic expert. Can also be issued by the Police or other authority, if necessary. It will be retained when registering the death. | Declaration of Death <i>(Atestado de óbito)</i> Issued by the treating doctor or forensic expert. Can also be issued by the Police or other authority, if necessary. It will be retained when registering the death. | Declaration of Death <i>(Atestado de óbito)</i> Issued by the treating doctor or forensic expert. Can also be issued by the Police or other authority, if necessary. It will be retained when registering the death. | Declaration of Death <i>(Atestado de óbito)</i> Issued by the treating doctor or forensic expert. Can also be issued by the Police or other authority, if necessary. It will be retained when registering the death. | Declaration of Death <i>(Atestado de óbito)</i> Issued by the treating doctor or forensic expert. Can also be issued by the Police or other authority, if necessary. It will be retained when registering the death. |
| Local Death Registration and Certificate <i>(Certidão de óbito)</i> Issued by local Register Office (<i>Cartório</i>). | Local Death Registration and Certificate <i>(Certidão de óbito)</i> Issued by local Register Office (<i>Cartório</i>). | Local Death Registration and Certificate <i>(Certidão de óbito)</i> Issued by local Register Office (<i>Cartório</i>). | Local Death Registration and Certificate <i>(Certidão de óbito)</i> Issued by local Register Office (<i>Cartório</i>). | Local Death Registration and Certificate <i>(Certidão de óbito)</i> Issued by local Register Office (<i>Cartório</i>). | Local Death Registration and Certificate <i>(Certidão de óbito)</i> Issued by local Register Office (<i>Cartório</i>). |
| Next of Kin Authorisation | - | Next of Kin Authorisation |
| Embalming Declaration <i>(Termo ou Ata de Embalsamamento)</i> Issued by the authorities and approved by a doctor (arranged by the funeral home) | Cremation Authorisation <i>(Guia de Sepultamento)</i> issued by the Register Office (<i>Cartorio</i>) – authorising the cemetery to proceed with the cremation. | Burial Authorisation <i>(Guia de Sepultamento)</i> Issued by the Register Office (<i>Cartorio</i>) – authorising the cemetery to proceed with the burial. | Cremation Authorisation <i>(Guia de Sepultamento)</i> issued by the Register Office (<i>Cartorio</i>) – authorising the cemetery to proceed with the cremation. | Autopsy Report (final) <i>(Laudo do IML)</i> Issued by the Forensics Institute (<i>IML – Instituto Médico Legal</i>). Not necessary in time for repatriation | Embalming Declaration <i>(Termo ou Ata de Embalsamamento)</i> Issued by the authorities and approved by a doctor (arranged by the funeral home) |
| | Certificate of Cremation <i>(Atestado de Cremação)</i> Issued by the cemetery/crematorium | | Certificate of Cremation <i>(Atestado de Cremação)</i> Issued by the cemetery/crematorium | | |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Repatriation Authorisation <i>(Autorização para Remoção de Restos Mortais)</i> Issued by the local authorities (usually the Federal Police or Customs) | Repatriation Authorisation <i>(Autorização para Remoção de Restos Mortais)</i> Issued by the local authorities (usually the Federal Police or Customs) | - | - | - | - |
| Authorisation from Health Department issued by the Salubriousness Office <i>(Vigilância Sanitária)</i> | - | - | - | - | - |
| Air Waybill Bill Issued by the cargo company or airline. | Air Waybill Bill Issued by the cargo company or airline. | - | - | - | - |
| Translation of Death Certificate by a sworn translator | Translation of Death Certificate and Certificate of Cremation by a sworn translator | - | - | - | - |

Return of Personal Effects

Next of Kin should make arrangements for the return of personal effects through their privately commissioned undertakers. The British Consulate cannot deal with personal belongings.

Police/Judicial Inquiries

The police take the lead on investigations into deaths as a result of road traffic accidents or under suspicious circumstances. The Next of Kin may obtain a copy of the report by making a formal request to the Police, which may sometimes need to be done through a privately commissioned local lawyer.

What happens if the police apprehend a suspect and the State decides to prosecute?

Next of Kin should consult a locally commissioned lawyer for specific legal advice on a case-by-case basis.

A list of English-speaking lawyers in Brazil is available on our website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/brazil-list-of-lawyers>

Compensation

Is there a government compensation scheme in murder/manslaughter/terrorism cases which is applicable to foreign nationals as well as local nationals? If so how to apply?

Sometimes, but again, this depends on a case-by-case basis. Next of Kin may wish to consult a local lawyer - A list of English-speaking lawyers in Brazil is available on our website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/brazil-list-of-lawyers>

LIST OF FUNERAL DIRECTORS

The following list of funeral directors has been prepared by the British Embassy **Brasilia** and the British Consulates in **Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Recife** for the convenience of British Nationals who may require this service and assistance in **Brazil**. It is provided on the understanding that we (the British Embassy/Consulates) do not assume or undertake any legal responsibility, to you, or those affected, if you choose to take it into account when instructing a local funeral director.

Further and alternatively, we cannot accept any liability to any person or company for any financial loss or damage arising from the use of this information or from any failure to give information.

Our aim is to provide our customers with as much relevant information to enable them to make better informed decisions but our lists **are not recommendations and should not be treated as such**.

International Funeral Directors

| Funeral Director | Address | Telephone/FAX | E-mail/web address |
|---|--|---|---|
| Avalon International | Brooke Court, WILMSLOW, Cheshire SK9 7ES | Tel +44 (0) 161 486 2020 | info@avalonrepatriation.com www.avalonrepatriation.co.uk |
| Co-Operative International | 221 Upper Richmond Rd., Putney, London SW15 6SQ | Tel +44 844 600 9088 Fax +44 20 8788 2525 | funeralcare.worldwiderepatriation@co-operative.coop http://www.co-operative.coop/funeralcare/ |
| Kenyon Air Transportation | 81 Westbourne Grove LONDON W2 4UL | Tel. +44 20 7258 1130 Fax +44 20 7243 3125 | katuk@dial.pipex.com |
| National Association of Funeral Directors | 618 Warwick Road SOLIHULL B91 1AA | Tel +44 121 711 1343 Fax +44 121 711 1351 | info@nafd.org.uk www.nafd.org.uk |
| Phoenix International | 13 The Broadway Gunnersbury Lane LONDON W3 8HR | Tel: +44 20 8993 8767 | |
| Rowland Brothers International | 301-305 Whitehorse Rd CROYDON CR0 2HR | Tel. +44 20 8684 2324 Fax +44 20 8684 8000 | info@rowlandbrothersinternational.co.uk www.rowlandbrothersinternational.co.uk |

Funeral Homes in Brazil

| Funeral Home | Address | Telephone | E-mail/web address |
|---------------------------------|--|---|--|
| ABCEL | Rua Alegre, 775 – Sao Caetano do Sul São Paulo, SP | + 55 0800 19 29 39 | www.abcel.com.br contato@abcel.com.br |
| Funerária Almir Neves | Av. Joaquim Nabuco, 1523 Centro Manaus – AM | +55 92 3234-2494 Fax. +55 92 3234-3248 | funeraria_almirneves@hotmail.com www.almirneves.com.br |
| Funerária Bom Pastor | Rua Bela, 250 – São Cristóvão Rio de Janeiro, RJ | +55 08000 250 240 | Assistencia24h@casabompastor.com.br |
| Funeraria JEAFF | Estrada dos Bandeirantes, 4.850 Curicica, Jacarepaguá Rio de Janeiro, RJ | 0800 722 5013 +55 21 2441 2358 +55 21 3325 3693 | www.ieaf.com.br |
| Funerária Luz | Ladeira do Campo Santo, 52 – Federação, Salvador, Bahia | +55 71 3247 1915 +55 71 3331 6890 +55 71 3237 2493 | funerarialuz@terra.com.br |
| Funerária Maracanã | Estrada do Tindiba, 732, Jacarepagua, Rio de Janeiro, RJ, 22740-360 | +55 21 3312-4606 | maracanaassistencia@gmail.com |
| Funerária Padrão | Rua Padre Mororó, 217 Centro Fortaleza, CE | + 55 85 3212-0212 +55 85 98849-5969 +55 85 99710-0070 | funerariapadraoce@gmail.com www.funerariapadrao24h.com.br |
| Funerária Santa Izabel | Rua Eduardo Carije, 38 – Baixa dos Sapateiros – Salvador, Bahia (BA) | +55 71 3358 6674 | Mmercedes.aranda@terra.com.br |
| Grupo Vila | Av. Pres Bandeira, 487 Alecrim, Natal, Rio Grande do Norte (RN) | + 55 4002 2535 | magnovila@grupovila.com.br ibsenvila@grupovila.com.br www.grupovila.com.br |
| | Av. João Machado, 1214 Jaguaribe João Pessoa, PB | + 55 83 3612-3800 | |
| | Av. Rodolfo Aureliano, s/n, PE-15, Km 3,5 – Vila Torres Galvão – Paulista – Pernambuco (PE) | +55 81 3301-5602 | |
| Menino Jesus Ltda | Vila Flor Cemitério Parque Av. Cel. Estevam 1251 Alecrim Natal, Rio Grande do Norte (RN) | +55 84 3211 4702 | |
| Viana Viana Eventos Fúnebres | Av. Getúlio Vargas, 860 Centro Manaus – AM | +55 92 3234-4951 +55 92 3234-4985 +55 92 99198-1323 | fviana.viana@gmail.com |

DISCLAIMER

This information sheet was compiled by the Consular Section, Brazil. It is revised on a regular basis.

If any of the information contained in this document is incorrect, please draw inaccuracies to our attention so that we can make amendments.

The British Embassy in Brazil is not accountable for the information provided in this document. Local proceedings are subject to change at any time.

Thank you.

Wednesday, 21 September 2016