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DEATH INVOLVING BRITISH NATIONALS IN HUNGARY

The death of a relative or friend is always distressing. But if it happens abroad the distress can be made worse by practical problems. Consular Directorate in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and our consular officers in Hungary are ready to help in any way that they can. You may be uncertain 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. Please read in conjunction with "Death Overseas" leaflet which describes the generic functions of Consular staff overseas.

You should be aware that Hungarian procedures may differ significantly to those in the United Kingdom. While we understand your need to make arrangements as quickly as possible, this may not always be possible.

The Embassy contact details in Hungary are:

British Embassy
Consular Section
Budapest 1022
Füge utca 5-7.

Tel.no. +36 1 266 2888

Fax no. +36 1 266 0907

E-mail: consular.budapest@fco.gov.uk

Website: www.gov.uk/government/world/hungary

Should you call out of office hours you will be connected to the General Response Centre (GRC) at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in London.

Standard Procedures

Following the death of a British national in Hungary, their next of kin, or formally appointed representative, must decide whether to repatriate the deceased to the UK, or carry out a local burial or cremation. If the deceased was covered by travel insurance, it is important for the next of kin or friends to contact the insurance company without delay. If there is no insurance cover, the cost of repatriation or burial will need to be met by the family. Neither the Foreign and Commonwealth Office nor our consular offices in Hungary have budgets to meet these costs.

Consular staff in London will pass on to the Consular offices in Hungary the wishes of the next of kin about disposal of the body, and details of who is taking responsibility for the costs involved. We will do our best to ensure these wishes are carried out.

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It is important to remember that if the deceased was travelling with a tour operator, they can be a valuable source of assistance and advice.

Repatriation

If the deceased was covered by travel insurance, the insurance company will normally have a standing agreement with an international funeral director in the UK to arrange repatriations. If the deceased is not covered by insurance, next of kin will need to appoint an undertaker in Hungary or an international funeral director who will liaise with a local one themselves. A list of British companies can be found towards the back of this document. Hungarian undertakers have links with international undertakers in the UK and they normally work well together to ensure that all the necessary requirements are met in Hungary and the UK.

Local Burial

If the next of kin choose to proceed with a local burial they will need to instruct a local funeral director. A list of companies can be found at the back of this document.

Local Cremation

If next of kin choose a local cremation and wish to take the ashes back to the UK themselves, they can do so with minimal bureaucracy. If this is not possible, local undertakers will be able to arrange the necessary paperwork and transportation. Some airline regulations stipulate that ashes must be placed in luggage for the hold or sent as cargo and cannot be transported as hand luggage.

Post-Mortem/Removal of Organs

Whilst the procedure involved around a post-mortem can be harrowing for a family and friends, the British Embassy has no power to change the procedure or challenge local laws and is often not informed of the details surrounding each individual post-mortem. This leaflet has been drawn up to help you understand under what circumstances a post-mortem would be carried out.

Under Hungarian law, post-mortems are carried out in the following circumstances:-

- when the death is sudden and the cause of death unknown;
- when there is doubt or it is obvious that the cause of death was caused by a criminal act or in connection with a criminal act;
- when the family of the deceased asks for a post-mortem to be carried out;

If an individual does die in a medical institution, an agreement may be reached with the Next of Kin that a post-mortem will not be carried out. However, this is only after consultation between senior management and the Next of Kin in co-ordination with the pathologist (if there is one at the institution). If a post-mortem is carried out and organs are removed as part of the procedure they are not usually retained at the institution.

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UK Coroners

When a body is repatriated to England or Wales, a coroner will hold an inquest only if the death was violent or unnatural, or if the death was sudden and the cause of death unknown. In some countries the cause of death is not given on the death certificate, and the coroners do not generally have access to judicial files from other countries. Consequently coroners may order a post-mortem as part of the inquest.

Coroners can request copies of post-mortems and police reports from the Hungarian authorities. However, these will only be provided once any judicial proceedings are completed. In some instances this can take many months.

In Scotland, the crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service (COPFS) deals with the investigation of all sudden, suspicious, accidental, unexpected and unexplained deaths, which occur in Scotland. However, the COPFS does not have the jurisdiction to investigate deaths that occur outside Scotland apart from a few limited circumstances. Broadly, those circumstances include terrorism, cases where the death may have been caused in Scotland but the person died outside Scotland and cases where the death was a result of murder or culpable homicide caused by another British citizen or subject.

Coroners in Northern Ireland are not obliged to hold an inquest into cause of death. However, next of kin can apply for a judicial review if no inquest is held.

Release of Information

Accesses to information concerning a death, other than post-mortem and police reports are restricted. The Hungarian authorities will not provide this information directly to next of kin, or to a third party including Consular offices. Requests for this information should be made through legal representatives. Consular staff can provide a list of local English speaking lawyers.

Legal Aid

British nationals without the available means to appoint legal representation can apply for legal aid in most European countries. The Legal Services Commission in London (Tel. 0207 759 0000, website: www.legalservices.gov.uk) is responsible for legal aid applications overseas.

Consular Death Registration

There is no obligation for the death overseas of a British national to be registered with the British Embassy. However, there are the advantages that a British form of death certificate is then available, and that a record of the death is afterwards held at the General Register Office in the UK.

For guidance on how to register an overseas death please follow this [link](#).

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INTERNATIONAL FUNERAL DIRECTORS

1. Co-operative Funeral Services
119 Paisley Road
Glasgow G5 8RL
Tel. +44 141 3086217
Fax. +44 141 429 4169
E-mail: glasgow.paisley@letsco-operate.com

2. KCH Repatriation
83 Westbourne Grove
Bayswater
London W2 4UL
Tel. +44 207 313 6920
Fax. +44207 313 6999
E-mail: info@kchrepatriation.com
www.kchrepatriation.com

3. Rowland Brothers International
299-305 Whitehorse Road
Croydon CR0 2HR
Tel. +44 208 684 2324
Fax. +44208 684 8000
E-mail: info@rowlandbrothersinternational.co.uk
www.rowlandbrothersinternational.co.uk

4. National Association of Funeral Directors
618 Warwick Road
Solihull B91 1AA
Tel. +44 121 711 1343
Fax. +44 121 711 1351
E-mail: info@nafd.org.uk

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British Embassy Budapest

List of Funeral Directors in Hungary

Prepared by British Embassy Consular Section Budapest

www.gov.uk

The following list of funeral directors has been prepared by the British Embassy Budapest for the convenience of British Nationals who may require this service and assistance in **Hungary**. It is provided on the understanding that we the British Embassy 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.**

List of Funeral Directors in Hungary

Updated: February 2015

This list is in alphabetical order.

ANTEA International Funeral Assistance Ltd

Mr Gergely NOVAK

**Budapest 1091
Mihálkovics utca 12**

Mobile: +36 30 638 6848

Telno.: +36 1 216 6108

E-mail: office@antea.hu

www.antea.hu

This company has told us the following things:

- they have English speaking staff
- they are affiliated to the Hungarian Health Office and local Mayor's office
- specialisations are in: Worldwide repatriation and local cremations/burials
- they have 20 years experience representing British nationals
- staff speak Hungarian/German
- they cannot offer repayment plans
- they can provide services for the whole of Hungary and have good connections with International Funeral Directors

**Budapest Municipal Funeral Institute PLC
(Member of BVK Holding)**

Budapest 1086
Fiumei út 16
www.btirt.hu

Ms Andrea HARSÁNYI (only speaks a little English)

Telno: +36 1 323 5252
Faxno: +36 1 323 5223
E-mail: harsanyi.andrea@btirt.hu

This company has told us the following things:

- they do not have English speaking staff
- they are affiliated to the OTEI (Országos Temetkezési Egyesület és Ipartestület) - Hungarian Funeral Directors Association
- specialisations are in: traditional burial/cremation and the scattering of ashes. Additional services offered include a wide selection of floristic products and grave maintenance
- they cannot offer repayment plans
- they can provide services for the whole of Hungary

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Feedback Form for Customers

If you do decide to use any of the funeral directors on this list, we would like to hear from you. While there is no obligation on your part to provide feedback on the services you receive, **any feedback you can give us is helpful.**

Once completed, please return the form to the British Embassy Consular Section by email to: consular.budapest@fco.gov.uk. An electronic version of the form is available at www.gov.uk/government/world/hungary. Thank you for your help.

- 1. Name of firm: _____ Name of funeral director: _____

- 2. Date of contact: _____
Are any of the details on our list regarding this provider wrong? (e.g. address, telephone number, etc.)

- 3. What service did you need?

- 4. Why did you need this service?

Please circle the appropriate boxes below:

(a) If the service provided English speaking services, how would you rate the standard of English?

Excellent Good Average Poor Very Poor

(b) How would you rate the professionalism of the staff?

Excellent Good Average Poor Very Poor

(c) How would you rate the overall service received?

Excellent Good Average Poor Very Poor

(d) How would you rate the value for money?

Excellent Good Average Poor Very Poor

5. Do you have any other comments?

We would like to share this information with other customers but if you would prefer it not to be seen by others please tick the box

Feedback provider's name:

Tel. No.:

Email:

Date: