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 Consulate/Consular Section of the Embassy in Morocco 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 in Morocco 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.

**Autopsies (Post Mortems)**

Autopsies are carried out in circumstances where the causes of the death are not natural, or in the case of a foreigner who had been resident in Morocco and has died with no descendant, the King's Prosecutor will automatically request an autopsy to be performed. We are not aware of cases where organs have been retained.

Once ready, the report can be made available to the family, upon request. The consular authorities will request it in writing from the Prosecutor. Please note there can be delays in obtaining a copy of the report.

**Mortuary Facilities**

There are morgues in the major hospitals in Rabat and Casablanca, and in the *Bureaux d'Hygiène Municipale* of major cities. Smaller cities will not have cold storage facilities. Authorisation from the local authorities is needed to transfer the remains of a body to a different *wilaya* (administrative district).

**Repatriation and Burial**

There is one funeral company in Morocco, with branches in the major cities, called *Compagnie Marocaine de Pompes Funèbres*. Consular authorities will liaise with them to obtain the relevant authorisation to release the body for local burial or repatriation. This is only granted once the authorisation for local burial is authorised in the country of final destination. We recommend the appointment of an international funeral director, in order to facilitate those arrangements upon arrival. Cremation is not an option in Morocco.

Please note that no inquest will take place in the UK if a local burial is arranged.
Registration of the death

The Moroccan local authorities will issue a death certificate (in Arabic and French), upon presentation of a medical certificate. As this certificate will not only mention date and place of birth of the deceased, but also his/her parents’ names, it is essential that the next of kin can provide these details (including the mother's maiden name). With this information, the certificate will be produced more rapidly. Please note that the death certificates do not give details of the cause of death like in the UK. You may wish to register the death online on www.gov.uk/register-a-death

UK Coroner

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 unknown. In Morocco, the cause of death is not given on the death certificate, and coroners do not generally have access to judicial files from Morocco. Consequently, coroners may order a post-mortem as part of the inquest.

Coroners can request copies of post-mortem reports but these will only be provided once any judicial proceedings are completed. In some instances, this can take many months.

Return of Personal Effects

Personal effects are normally returned to the family if they so request, at their expense, through liaison with the Moroccan undertaker.

Police/Judicial Inquiries

Police or Examining Magistrate interfere in suspicious deaths and road traffic accidents. All police/judicial documents will be produced in Arabic. The police will not make a copy of their report available to the family directly. This will only be made available through the lawyer whom the family has appointed.

The Moroccan police and judiciary systems differ from the UK systems in many ways. We cannot advise on legal procedures, and recommend that you make enquiries through a Moroccan lawyer.

List of Lawyers in Morocco: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/morocco-list-of-lawyers

Legal Aid

Legal aid is not available for foreigners in Morocco.

Compensation

Any government scheme in murder/manslaughter/terrorism cases is decided on a case by case basis. There are no routine application procedures which might be applicable to foreign nationals that we are aware of.
LIST OF LOCAL UNDERTAKERS

To assist persons requiring the services of an undertaker the addresses of local undertakers in Morocco are given below.

Neither Her Majesty’s Government nor Her Majesty’s Representatives abroad can act as guarantor of the competence or probity of any particular firm or agent on this list, nor take any responsibility whatsoever in regard to the consequence of employing any undertaking agent.

The responsibility for paying undertakers’ fees rests with the executor of the estate or the insurance company and it is possible that before transporting a body the undertaker might ask for guarantees that the costs will be paid.

**AGADIR:** CMPF  
4, BD Mohammed V – Immeuble “Mauritania”  
Tel : 0528 84 06 26 Fax : 0528 84 81 47  
Dépôt : Av. Allal Ben Abdellah – Immeuble “Arsalane”  
Tel : 0528 82 44 96.

**CASABLANCA:** CMPF  
56, Av. Mers Sultan  
Tel : 0522 49 16 16 (Ligne groupée) Fax : 0522 22 22 11  
Dépôt : 272, BD de Bordeaux Tel : 0522 27 66 99

**FES:** CMPF  
No7, rue Iyass Ibnou Mouaouiya  
Tel : 0535 65 33 23

**MARRAKECH:** CMPF  
58, Bd Mohamed Zerktouni – Gueliz  
Tel : 0524 44 84 51 Fax : 0524 43 38 14  
Dépôt : 13, rue Tarik Ibnou Ziad Tel : 0524 43 18 55

**MEKNES:** CMPF  
8, rue Antsirabe –  
Tel : 0535 52 09 14 Fax : 0535 52 01 94
OUJDA: CMPF
2, rue Ibnou Nafiss –
Tel : 0536 70 30 25 Fax : 0536 70 30 21

RABAT: CMPF
5, rue Soussa
Tel : 0537 70 60 17 Fax : 0537 70 90 80
Dépôt : Route de Casablanca Tel : 0537 69 23 19

TANGER: CMPF
42, rue Al Mansour Addahbi
Tel : 0539 94 10 27 Fax : 0539 32 59 50
Dépôt : 23, rue Quadiaro « Lotissement Inemex »
Tel : 0539 32 36 20

TETOUAN: CMPF
8, rue Azilal – Hay Touta-
Tel : 0539 97 40 88