

Disposition of Remains Report: Osaka

March 27, 2015

Part I - Name of Country: Japan

Part II - U.S. Embassy or Consulate Information

U.S. Consulate General Osaka-Kobe

Address: 11-5 Nishitenma 2-chome, Kita-ku, Osaka 530-8543, Japan

Phone: 81-6-6315-5912

Fax: 81-6-6315-5914

After hours phone: 81-3-3224-5000

- [State Department Country Specific Information](#)
- [State Department Travel Information](#)
- [Smart Travel Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#)

Part III - Profile of Religions of the Host Country and Religious Services available to visitors

Country Profile: [Japan](#)

Religions: Shinto and Buddhist; Christian (about 2%)

Religious Activities for Visitors: English-language services for followers of the Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish faiths are held in Kobe. Catholic and Anglican/Episcopalian Churches, with Japanese-language services, are available.

Part IV - Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services Available in Osaka and vicinity:

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Consulate General Osaka-Kobe, Japan assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Names are listed alphabetically, and the order in which they appear has no other significance. Professional credentials and areas of expertise are provided directly by the funeral directors, morticians and other service providers.

CSC SERVICE Co., Ltd.

3-1-10 Higashi Imazato, Higashinari-ku, Osaka

Tel: 81-6-4259-8799

Fax: 81-6-4259-8798

<http://www.csc.srv.jp> (Japanese)

JAPAN EMBALMING CORPORATION (JEC)

(The company has a branch office in Hiroshima. For cremation services, the company requires somebody

who can attend cremation and receive urns in Japan.)

1-16-3 Umagome, Ota-ku, Tokyo 143-0025

Tel: 81-3-5743-1400

Fax: 81-3-5743-1403

<http://jec-em.jp/english/>

KOEKISHA Co. Ltd.

4-6-42 Tenjinbashi, Kita-ku, Osaka 530-0041

Tel: 81-6-4800-9275

Fax: 81-6-4800-9280

Email: repat@koekisha.co.jp

<http://www.koekisha.co.jp> (Japanese)

NOIRI Co., Ltd.

Noiri Embalming Service

11 Aza Masakiyama, Asano

Ichinomiya, Aichi 491-0871

<http://www.noiri.co.jp/wp/>

Part V - Profile of services available in Japan regarding preparation and shipment of remains:

1. Maximum Period Before Interment

Japanese law does not require interment within a certain period. According to local custom, the remains are usually cremated on the 2nd or 3rd day after death. Burials of human bodies are very rare in Japan as graveyard suitable for burial is hard to find. The

only Japanese law governing the disposition of remains is Law No. 48 of 1948 ("Law Regarding Graveyards, Burials and Others"). This law states that "a corpse or stillborn fetus shall not be buried or cremated earlier than 24 hours after its death or birth, except as otherwise provided by ordinance."

When death results from an infectious or epidemic disease, however, interment within 24 hours is permitted under Law No. 114, "Law Concerning Prevention of Infectious Diseases and Patients with Infectious Diseases" of October 2, 1998. The law states that the remains with infectious diseases or possibly exposed to infectious disease must be cremated or buried with a special permission from a governor, and such cremation or burial may be conducted within 24 hours upon recommendation of a physician or a medical examiner.

Under Japanese law, the Report of Death has to be filed by a family member, a cohabiter, owner or superintendent of the house/apartment or land, director of a public institution, a legal guardian or a helper within seven days from when one learns of the death. Only the above specified individuals can be the informant of the death; i.e. friends or employers cannot act as an informant. The informant does not necessarily have to file the Report of Death in person, as long as his/her signature and personal information is on the Report of Death form. When a U.S. citizen dies without a next-of-kin in Japan, and there is no one who can act as an informant, the Japanese Report of Death form must be mailed to the next-of-kin in the United States for his/her signature and personal information such as the date of birth and residence address.

2. Embalming

Because the custom in Japan is to dispose of remains by cremation, there are limited numbers of commercial embalming facilities in Japan. The practice is still rare that it has never been subjected to Japanese government regulation. Therefore, there are no Japanese government standards or licensing procedures. However, there are a few companies that provide embalming services in Osaka and post's consular district. Some companies listed in Part IV have embalmers personally trained in the United States or trained by American embalmers.

3. Cremation

Crematorium facilities are available in virtually all localities in Japan. The only legal requirement for cremation is to obtain Permission for Cremation, which is issued by the

Village, Town, Ward or City Office, upon presentation of the Report of Death. Obtaining the permit and the cremation itself are mostly handled by local undertakers on behalf of decedent's relatives. Japanese cremation procedures do not result in the same sized fine ash as it does in the United States, but in somewhat larger-sized pieces of bone. For an additional charge, bone can be processed into fine bone.

4. Caskets and Containers

No Japanese laws forbid or otherwise govern the exportation of human remains. A casket or urn, containing the remains or ashes, is treated as ordinary freight or baggage. When the remains of a deceased person are to be shipped to the United States, the embalmed remains are placed in a wooden casket, which is lined with metal to meet the requirements of the U.S. Public Health Service and U.S. port authorities. Since there is little demand for burial caskets, those normally used for burying the dead are of the same simple type as wooden containers used for cremation. Containers for human ashes are also very simple. Ornamental caskets and containers for human ashes may not be readily available but can be obtained by special order.

5. Exportation of Human Remains

Documents for the exportation of human remains are as follows:

Embalmed Body:

1. Report of Death of an American Citizen Abroad
2. Mortician's affidavit
3. Consular Mortuary Certificate
4. A photocopy of the deceased's passport
5. Two copies of airway bill

Note: Individual shipping companies and airlines have their own policies concerning shipment of remains to the United States. Currently, post is aware that the Delta Airlines can only ship embalmed human bodies from Narita International Airport in Tokyo under certain conditions. The Hawaiian Airlines do not ship human bodies to the U.S. from any airports in Japan. These airline companies explain that they cannot fully meet the U.S. Travel Safety Agency's (TSA) regulations regarding shipment of human bodies to the U.S. under the current Japanese airport facilities equipped for screening that the airlines own at certain or all the airports in Japan. The issue may eventually affect shipment of embalmed human remains by other airlines in Japan. Shipment of

human bodies to the U.S. is also affected by domestic logistics environment, such as availability of required cold storage at airport facilities and airlines' services. In general, they are based on rules established by the U.S. Public Health Service.

6. Exportation of Human Cremains/Ashes

Human Ashes:

1. Report of Death of an American Citizen Abroad
2. Cremation Certificate with an endorsement on date of the cremation took place
3. Certificate of the Contents of Urn

According to the Japanese postal office, ashes cannot be shipped to the United States by mail.

7. Costs

Charges are based on the exchange rate of March 2013: \$1.00 = Yen 95.

Total cost can only be obtained by adding relevant transportation fees (e), (f)(1) or (f)(2) to the below amounts from (a) to (d).

Type of Service	JPN Yen Amount	Dollar Amount
(a) Embalming and shipment preparation (including embalming, coffin, paperwork, excluding transportation.)	From 550,000 to 760,000	From \$5,789 to \$8,000
(b) Cremation and shipment of urn (including cremation, coffin, paperwork, excluding transportation.)	From 360,000 to 460,000	From \$3,789 to \$4,842
(c) Local interment of cremated remains (including cremation, urn, at a mausoleum. * The urn cannot be retrieved after interment.)	From 375,000 to 460,000	From \$3,947 to \$4,842
(d) Local interment of cremated	From 1,360,000	From \$14,316

remains (including cremation, urn, and permanent grave plot costing approximately from 1,000,000 to 2,500,000 Yen, which varies from place to place. est. from \$12,500 to \$31,250), excluding transportation.	to 2,930,000	to \$30,842
---	--------------	-------------

(e) In the event the remains must be transported from where the death occurred to the funeral home for cremation or embalming, there will be additional round-trip transportation cost. Following is approximate transportation cost between the funeral home in Osaka and some major cities.

Prefecture	Yen	Dollars (est.)
Nagoya, Aichi Pref.	96,345	\$1,014
Fukui city, Fukui Pref.	153,305	\$1,614
Otsu, Shiga Pref.	31,885	\$336
Matsue, Shimane Pref.	118,985	\$1,254
Hiroshima, Hiroshima Pref.	129,765	\$1,366
Okayama, Okayama Pref.	84,465	\$889
Kochi, Kochi Pref.	121,585	\$1,280
Matsuyama, Ehime Pref.	126,785	\$1,335

Note: During the summer season, there is a dry ice surcharge for transporting remains – approximately 15 to 20 kilograms at a cost of 1,000 Yen (est. \$13) per kilogram.

(f) International Shipment Costs

1) Human Remains by Air Freight:

Airline freight charge per kilogram is uniform (tariff) –1,710 Yen (est. \$18) to the West Coast and 2,010 Yen (est. \$21) to the U.S. East Coast. Average weight of an export type casket with human remains is 210 kilograms. Based on this estimate, costs for airfreight shipment from Osaka to various points in the United States are as follows:

OSAKA to:	Rate/Kg	Yen	Dollars (est.)
New York	2,010 (\$21)	422,100	\$4,443
Honolulu	1,520 (\$16)	319,200	\$3,360
Dallas	1,970 (\$21)	413,700	\$4,355
San Francisco	1,710 (\$18)	359,100	\$3,780
Chicago	1,970 (\$21)	413,700	\$4,355

In addition to the above, there are surcharges, handling and airway bill charges totaling approximately 50,000 yen (est. \$526).

2) Human Ashes by Air Freight:

Ashes in an urn are shipped at the same rates as bodies. Average weight of an export type urn with human ashes including packing material is 10 kilograms. Based on this estimate, costs of air freight shipment from Osaka to various points in the United States are as follows:

OSAKA to:	Rate/Kg	Yen	Dollars (est.)
New York	2,010 (\$21)	20,100	\$212
Honolulu	1,520 (\$16)	15,200	\$160
Dallas	1,970 (\$21)	19,700	\$207
San Francisco	1,710 (\$18)	17,100	\$180

Chicago	1,970 (\$21)	19,700	\$207
---------	--------------	--------	-------

In addition to the above, there are surcharges, handling and airway bill charges totaling approximately 20,000 yen (est. \$211).

(g) Total Cost:

The approximate estimate prices for preparation and freight of air shipment of remains from Osaka and Hiroshima to the cities in the U.S. are as follows:

Embalmed remains:

OSAKA to:	Dollars (est.)
New York	\$15,401
Honolulu	\$14,115

HIROSHIMA to:	Dollars (est.)
New York	\$17,023
Honolulu	\$15,737

When death occurs outside of the immediate vicinity of Osaka, the remains must be transported to Osaka for embalming. Therefore, the additional cost for transportation referred to in paragraph 7(e) should be added to the above estimate.

Cremains:

OSAKA to:	Dollars (est.)
New York	\$6,626
Honolulu	\$6,565

HIROSHIMA to:	Dollars (est.)
New York	\$8,251
Honolulu	\$8,190

8. Exhumation and Shipment

Exhumation of remains is rare in Japan because the customary practice for disposing of remains is cremation. Japanese Law permits disinterment of remains or ashes if permission is granted by the mayor of the village, town, ward or city upon filing an application form "Kaiso Kyoka Shinseisho," if the remains or ashes are buried in the family cemetery run by the municipal government. When the remains or ashes are buried in a cemetery owned by a temple or church, the approval of the priest alone is sufficient. The Law also specifies that the remains of a person who died from infectious disease and buried in the ground without having been cremated shall not be removed for reburial before the expiration of 3 years unless the Chief of the local Public Health Center grants permission for a special reason.

9. Local Customs Regarding Funerals, Disposition of Remains, Mourning, Memorial Services

A Japanese funeral includes a wake, a funeral ceremony, the cremation of the deceased, a burial in a family grave, and a periodic memorial service. A wake (tsuya) is held the night before the deceased is buried. A Buddhist priest offers sutras at the wake and the funeral and the deceased is given a Buddhist name (kaimyo). Relatives and close friends spend the last night with the deceased, praying for the soul of the departed. Funerals are often held at the home of the deceased, but recently it has become more popular to have the funeral managed by a professional undertaker and held at a temple, shrine, church, community center, or ceremony hall.

At the crematorium, the relatives remove certain bones out of the ashes and transfer them to the urn using chopsticks. The ashes may be divided between more than one urn - one for the family grave and the other for the temple.

Traditionally the mourners bring condolence money (koden) in a special black and white or silver decorated envelope. Customarily Japanese avoid "tomobiki" (literally "friend pulling") day on the lunar calendar for funerals. The day is considered a great

day for weddings but should be avoided for funerals.

10. Remarks

Japanese undertakers charge a daily fee for storage of human remains. The sooner the next of kin contracts with the funeral home and gives instructions as to cremation or embalming and shipment of remains to the U.S., the better.

In addition, there is a fee for the police medical examination report in the event the police are involved in the death case. The police usually get involved when a person dies at a location other than a medical facility. The fee varies from 5,000 Yen (est. \$53) to 20,000 Yen (est. \$211) for two copies, depending on the issuing office.

The Kobe Municipal Government operates the SHUHOGAHARA Foreign Cemetery only for foreign residents in Kobe City. Local ordinances within other cities, however, restrict the interment of human remains without cremation for health reasons. If the deceased person cannot be cremated for religious reasons, the city mayor may permit interment of the remains provided the city has a cemetery for foreigners.