

Disposition of Remains Report: Sapporo

September 7, 2011

Name of Country: Japan

U.S. Consulate Information

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All dollar costs have been converted from the cost in local currency at the exchange rate of Yen 80 to the U.S. dollar.

1. MAXIMUM PERIOD BEFORE BURIAL

There is no Japanese law limiting the time in which a body must be interred, but the scarcity and expense of refrigerated storage facilities dictate that the disposition of remains be completed as quickly as possible, particularly in the summer months. Lack of immediate access to funds to pay for transportation and cold storage could lead to the unilateral disposition of the decomposing remains as a public health hazard by the local authorities. 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. 36 of April 1, 1897, entitled "Infectious Disease Prevention Law" which requires that (1) an immediate report be made to the Public Health Center so that areas of possible contamination may be promptly disinfected; and (2) a post-mortem examination be conducted by a physician, after which the body may be cremated or buried within 24 hours after death.

2. EMBALMING

Cremation is the norm in Japan and embalming is uncommon. The practice is so rare that it has never been subjected to government regulation. There are therefore no standards or licensing procedures.

A U.S.-standard commercial embalming facility was established in Sapporo in November 2000. If death occurs outside of Sapporo, the remains may be transferred to Sapporo or its branch facility in Tokyo for professional embalming.

2. CREMATION

There are crematoria in most localities in Japan, and arrangements for cremation are handled by local undertakers. The only legal requirement is to obtain Permission for Cremation which is issued by the Village, Town, Ward, or City Office upon presentation of the Report of Death. 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.

Sapporo has two crematoria operated by the municipal government: Satozuka Crematorium, 506, Satozuka, Kiyota-ku, Sapporo (Tel 011-883-1561); Teine Crematorium (5-1, 4-jo 4-chome, honcho, Teine, Teine-ku, Sapporo (Tel 011-681-2445).

2. JAPANESE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Burial: The interment of uncremated remains in Sapporo is prohibited.

3. EMBALMING

4. CASKET AND CONTAINERS

There are no Japanese laws, national or local, governing the exportation of human remains. A casket containing a body or human ashes is treated as ordinary freight. Shipping companies, however, require that the body be placed in a metal lined casket. Suitable caskets or transfer cases are readily available and meet the requirements of the U.S. Public Health Service and U.S. port authorities. Containers for human ashes are also available.

5. EXPORTATION OF REMAINS

The air freight rate for a shipment weighing 220 kilograms from Sapporo to Hawaii is ¥420,000 (\$5,250), to the West Coast ¥530,000 (\$6,625), to the Mid-West ¥580,000 (\$7,250) and to the East Coast ¥530,000 (\$6,625).

In total, the air shipment of embalmed remains from Sapporo to Hawaii costs about ¥1,295,700 (\$16,196), calculated at an average weight of 220 kilograms, to the West Coast costs about ¥1,405,700 (\$17,571), ¥1,455,700 (\$18,196) to the Mid-West, and ¥1,405,700 (\$17,571) to the East Coast.

CONCLUSION

The preparation and air shipment of embalmed remains from Sapporo to the United States via Tokyo costs about ¥1,455,700 (\$18,196), and that of cremated remains costs about ¥554,500 (\$6,931). Cremation and local burial costs about ¥939,750 (\$11,747). See attached sheets for estimated cost breakdowns.

ESTIMATED COST BREAKDOWN

1) Shipment of Ashes by Air Freight

| | YEN | DOLLARS (¥80/\$) |
|--|----------|---------------------|
| Casket for Cremation | ¥73,500 | \$919 |
| Cremation | ¥42,000 | \$525 |
| Bone processing Fee (to make fine bones) | ¥42,000 | \$525 |
| Urn | ¥27,300 | \$341 |
| Urn Packing for Air Freight | ¥26,250 | \$328 |
| Dry Ice (7 days) (¥5,250/day) | ¥36,750 | \$459 |
| Mortuary (Funeral Hall for 7 days) (¥10,500/day) | ¥73,500 | \$919 |
| Land Transportation (within Sapporo) | ¥29,400 | \$368 |
| Land Transportation (from Sapporo to Sapporo/Chitose Airport) | ¥42,000 | \$525 |
| Undertaker's Fees | ¥52,500 | \$656 |
| White Clothing | ¥6,300 | \$79 |
| Domestic Air Freight (from Sapporo to Tokyo) | ¥42,000 | \$525 |
| Air Freight from Tokyo to U.S. | | |
| Honolulu (20 kg) | ¥87,900 | \$1,099 |
| Los Angeles (20 kg) | ¥98,000 | \$1,225 |
| Chicago & Dallas (20 kg) | ¥103,000 | \$1,288 |
| New York (20 kg) | ¥98,000 | \$1,225 |
| Total: | | |
| Honolulu | ¥539,400 | \$6,743 |
| Los Angeles | ¥549,500 | \$6,869 |
| Chicago & Dallas | ¥554,500 | \$6,931 |
| New York | ¥549,500 | \$6,869 |

Required Documents (Shipment of Ashes by Air Freight):

1. Consular Mortuary Certificate
2. Report of Death (DS-2060)
3. Copy of Local Japanese Death Certificate (required by Japanese Customs)
4. Cremation Permit/Certificate
5. Affidavit by Local Funeral Director (Certificate of Contents)
or Certificate of Contents of Urn
6. Copy of the Deceased's U.S. Passport

2) Shipment of Embalmed Remains to U.S.
 (Cost from Hokkaido and Tohoku to U.S. via Tokyo):

| | YEN | DOLLARS (¥80/\$) |
|--|------------|---------------------|
| Casket for Air Freight | ¥315,000 | \$3,938 |
| Embalming | ¥252,000 | \$3,150 |
| Preparation for International Air Freight | ¥26,250 | \$328 |
| Dry ice (7 days) (¥10,500/day) | ¥36,750 | \$459 |
| Mortuary (Funeral Hall for 7 days) (¥1,0500/day) | ¥73,500 | \$919 |
| Land Transportation (within Sapporo) | ¥29,400 | \$368 |
| Land Transportation (from Sapporo to Sapporo/Chitose Airport) | ¥42,000 | \$525 |
| Undertaker's Fees | ¥52,500 | \$656 |
| White Clothing | ¥6,300 | \$79 |
| Domestic Air Freight (from Sapporo to Tokyo) | ¥42,000 | \$525 |
| Air Freight from Tokyo to U.S.: | | |
| Honolulu (220 kg) | ¥420,000 | \$5,250 |
| Los Angeles (220 kg) | ¥530,000 | \$6,625 |
| Chicago & Dallas (220 kg) | ¥580,000 | \$7,250 |
| New York (220 kg) | ¥530,000 | \$6,625 |
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| Total: Honolulu | ¥1,295,700 | \$16,196 |
| Los Angeles | ¥1,405,700 | \$17,571 |
| Chicago & Dallas | ¥1,455,700 | \$18,196 |
| New York | ¥1,405,700 | \$17,571 |

When death occurs outside of Sapporo, the remains may be transferred to Sapporo for preparation. Additional transportation cost ranges up to ¥250,000 (\$3,125) for surface transportation and approximately ¥42,000 (\$525) for domestic air transportation.

Required Documents (Shipment of Embalmed Remains to U.S.):

1. Consular Mortuary Certificate
2. Report of Death (DS-2060)
3. Copy of Local Japanese Death Certificate (required by Japanese Customs)
4. Mortician's Embalming Certificate (prepared by mortician)
5. Affidavit by Local Funeral Director (Certificate of Contents)
6. Copy of the Deceased's U.S. Passport
7. Regular Customs Declaration (required by Japanese customs; prepared by shipping agent)

3) LOCAL BURIAL OF ASHES:

| | YEN | DOLLARS (¥80/\$) |
|---|----------|---------------------|
| Casket for Cremation | ¥73,500 | \$919 |
| Cremation | ¥42,000 | \$525 |
| Urn | ¥27,300 | \$341 |
| Dry ice (7 days) (¥5,0250/day) | ¥36,750 | \$459 |
| Mortuary (Funeral Hall for 7 days) (¥10,500/day) | ¥73,500 | \$919 |
| Land Transportation (within Sapporo) | ¥29,400 | \$368 |
| Plot with Marker | ¥598,500 | \$7,481 |
| Undertaker's Fees | ¥52,500 | \$656 |
| White Clothing | ¥6,300 | \$79 |
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| Total: | ¥939,750 | \$11,747 |