

Disposition of Remains Report: Palau

April 16, 2019

Part I. Name of Country: Palau

Part II. U.S. Embassy Information

U.S. Embassy Koror

Address: P.O. Box 6028  
Koror, Palau 96940

or

Omsangel/Beklelachieb  
Airai, Palau 96940

Phone: (680) 587-2920 ext. 2900 (Consular Section)

Fax: (680) 587-2911

[State Department Country Specific Information](#)

[State Department Travel Information](#)

[Smart Travel Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#)

Part III. Profile of Religions of the Host County and Religious Services available to visitors

Country Profile: Visit the State Department's website "Background Note: Palau"

Religions: Roman Catholicism is the dominant religion in Palau. Other religious groups with sizable membership include the various denominations of Evangelism, Seventh-day-Adventists, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day-Saints, Jehovah's Witnesses, Judaism and Modekngai, which embraces both animist and Christian beliefs and is unique to Palau.

Part IV. Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services Available in Palau:

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy Koror, Palau, assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following person(s) or firm(s). Professional credential and areas of expertise are provided directly by the funeral directors, mortician and other service provider(s).

- Palau Mortuary Inc.  
P.O. Box 5048  
Koror, Palau 96940

Tel: (680) 488-2717(landline); (680) 775-3110/1011 (cell phones)

Email: [palaumortuary@gmail.com](mailto:palaumortuary@gmail.com)

Operating with one mortician and one embalmer. Shipment can also be arranged.

## Part V. Profile of services available in Palau regarding preparation and shipment of remains.

### 1. Maximum Period Before Burial

There is no Palauan law limiting the time in which a body must be interred, but the scarcity and expense of refrigerated storage facilities dictate the disposition of remains be completed as quickly as possible.

### 2. Embalming

Embalming is uncommon in Palau, but must be carried out on bodies that are going to be transported out of Palau. While there is no time limit after which embalming is obligatory, it is preferably carried out within twenty-four hours of the death. The Palau Mortuary Inc. has a qualified mortician.

### 3. Cremation

While the local laws do not prohibit cremation, there are no facilities available for the purpose.

### 4. Caskets and Containers

Purchasing a casket is the responsibility of the family and generally costs between USD 600-800. For remains sent out of Palau, the rules and regulations of the major airlines have to be observed; please contact the airline directly for their most recent policies. United Airlines offers [TrustUA](#), a specialized service designed to assist in the transportation of human remains. Generally, the body must be embalmed and placed in a coffin, and then the coffin is placed in another suitable packing case (locally made wooden crates are normally used at a cost of approximately USD 200 that can support the total weight). Remains are prepared according to international regulations to meet the requirements for shipment out of the country. Coffins can be ordered and delivered from outside of Palau or bought locally. Please visit the [TSA website](#) for more details on acceptable containers.

### 5. Exportation of Remains

Procedures and documents for the exportation of human remains are as follows.

#### Embalmed Body:

1. Embalming of the remains
2. Enclosure of the remains in a metal lined casket or locally made wooden crates

3. Consular Report of Death
4. Three (3) copies of the Death Certificate from the local government authority (required by Palauan Customs)
5. Mortician's Embalming certificate
6. Morticians statement of placement of remains in the coffin
7. Copy of the deceased's passport

#### 6. Costs as of April 2019

- |   |   |                   |
|---|---|-------------------|
| • Refrigerated Storage fee                | - | USD 95.00 per day |
| • Embalming fee                           | - | USD 700.00        |
| • Autopsy fee                             | - | USD 900.00        |
| • Local transportation to the airport fee | - | USD 150.00        |

#### 7. Autopsies

The National Hospital will perform the autopsy only if it is a police case. The hospital does not have a pathologist to perform the autopsy. The doctor who is in charge at the time of death will perform the autopsy. Individuals requesting an autopsy will have to hire an off-island pathologist and bear all costs involved.

#### 8. Death Certificate & Transport Requirements

Information needed from the informant to process the death certificate:

- 1) Names of the deceased's parents
- 2) Social Security Number
- 3) Civil Status at the time of dead: single/married/divorced or widower
- 4) Occupation (if retired, give occupation before retirement)
- 5) Permanent Residence Address
- 6) Informant's Name & Address (person providing information for the death certificate)

The following are requirements for a deceased Person being shipped out of Palau via air transport

- 1) Three (3) certified copies of the Palauan death certificate from the local Clerk of Courts.
- 2) Airline Company Name and Flight Number that the deceased person will be traveling on.

- 3) Place of Disposition: Address and contact number of where the body is going to:  
(for example: funeral home, residence)
- 4) Name of person to receive the body at the point of destination, or name of person accompanying the body.

9. Remarks

The cost of the Palauan death certificate is \$2 per copy.