



Subject: Transfer of Coffin for Burial in Israel

Dear Family,

The Foreign Ministry and the Department for Israelis Abroad join in your sorrow on the loss of your dear ones.

In order to lessen the burden of the transfer of the coffin for burial in Israel, this document is intended to concentrate for you the main points of the process:

1. Please verify that the deceased is insured under a foreign travel insurance policy. If yes, the insurance company must be informed of the details of the event and it must be verified that the insurance policy covers the costs of the transportation of the coffin to Israel. For your convenience, please find attached a list of telephone numbers for insurance companies (Annex B).
2. In the event the deceased is not insured under a foreign travel insurance policy, or if the policy does not cover the costs of the transportation of the coffin to Israel, the family must turn directly to a local funeral home and request their services.
 - a) In case of need, the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem can communicate information of relevant funeral homes to a family member. A list of names, if transferred by the Foreign Ministry, does not under any circumstance infer a recommendation and the choice of one funeral home's services is entirely the responsibility of the family alone.
 - b) In the event the deceased is not insured under a foreign travel insurance policy, or if the policy does not cover the costs of the transportation of the coffin to Israel, these costs will be charged in their entirety to the family.
 - c) Payment to the local funeral home will be carried out directly by the family. In the event direct payment will not be possible, the family



may approach the Foreign Ministry for its assistance in finding alternative ways of transferring the necessary payment from the family to the funeral home (by means of a Foreign Ministry bank account).

3. The following permits must be sent to the Department of Israelis Abroad in the Foreign Ministry:
 - a) Certificate of approval from a registered funeral service in Israel (e.g. Hevra Kadisha / local council / kibbutz) for the given place of burial.
 - b) Certificate of approval for the collection of the coffin at the Ben Gurion International Airport by an ambulance or a registered funeral service.
4. It should be emphasized that there may be a request on the part of the authorities in the country where the deceased passed away for an autopsy in order to determine the cause of death. It is important to point out that this is dependent on local law and on the local authorities of this country. If the need arises, and according to the request of the family, the Consul can submit the family's refusal for an autopsy in writing, but it is important to emphasize that the final decision lies with the local authorities. Furthermore, objection to an autopsy may delay the transfer of the coffin to Israel.
5. In any case, a form must be completed either permitting or objecting to the autopsy (Annex A) and sent by email to the Department of Israelis Abroad. The Foreign Ministry would like to bring to your attention that the absence of an autopsy may influence the process of criminal investigation being carried out, if indeed one is being carried out, and in certain cases may even instigate the closing of the investigation surrounding the cause of death. Any questions regarding this issue must be raised vis-à-vis the authorities in the country where the deceased passed away.
6. We would like to emphasize that this is a bureaucratic process under the sole responsibility of the local authorities that may go on for anywhere



between days to weeks (depending on, among other things, the specific country in which it is taking place, the local authorities and the availability of flights from that country to Israel).

7. The local funeral home is responsible for the entire procedure for transporting the coffin to Israel, including the purchase of the flight ticket (issuance of required documentation on site, such as: death certificate and permission of the state to have the body transferred for burial abroad).
8. The family is permitted to send a member of its choice to the country where the deceased is in order to accompany the process from up close.
9. It is the family's / insurance company's responsibility to transfer the personal belongings of the deceased to Israel. The Foreign Ministry and its missions abroad bear no responsibility in this regard.
10. At the end of the bureaucratic process and with the submission of the required documents to the local consul, the consul will issue a permit for the transportation of the coffin to Israel.
11. For the sake of good order, we request that communication between the family and the Foreign Ministry shall be carried out by means of one family member alone who will be chosen by the family. This family member will be the POC for all updates, questions or requests.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs would like, once again, to express its sorrow for the loss of your loved ones and hopes that you know no more sorrow.

The Department for Israelis Abroad
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Annexes:

Annex A: Autopsy clarification (including forms for permitting or objecting to the autopsy)

Annex B: Foreign insurance medical assistance centers





ANNEX A: AUTOPSY CLARIFICATION

משרד החוץ מבקש להביא לידיעתכם כי אי ביצוע נתיחה שלאחר המוות עשוי להשפיע על קיום ההליך הפלילי המתקיים בעניין זה, אם מתקיים, ובמקרים מסוימים, אף עלול להביא לסגירת חקירת נסיבות המוות. בנוסף, ישנן מדינות שלא יציינו את סיבת המוות בתעודת הפטירה ללא ביצוע הליך הנתיחה בנפטר.

על כל שאלה או הבהרה בעניין זה להתברר על ידי המשפחה אל מול הרשויות המוסמכות לכך במדינה בה אירעה הפטירה.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs wishes to inform you that declining to perform an autopsy may interfere with any criminal investigation conducted in this regard, if such investigation takes place. In certain cases, not performing an autopsy may prevent the investigation process. In addition, the actual cause of death may not be specified in the death certificate if an autopsy is not conducted.

Any questions or clarifications on the matter should be brought to the relevant authorities in the country where the death has occurred.

אישור לביצוע נתיחה שלאחר המוות

*** יש לצרף צילום תעודה מזהה של החותם על הבקשה**

אני החתום מטה _____ (שם מלא), בעל תעודת זהות ישראלית
שמספרה _____ (מספר זהות), מצהיר בזאת כי אני, ביחס לנפטר:

בעל רעיה אם אב אח אחות בן בת

מיופה כוח מטעם אחד מהנ"ל (יש לציין את פרטי הגורם מייפה הכוח ולצרף ייפוי כוח חתום על ידו:
(_____

מאשר לבצע נתיחה שלאחר המוות בגופתו של הנפטר _____ (שם מלא),
בעל תעודת זהות ישראלית שמספרה _____ (מספר זהות).

שם מלא: _____

חתימה: _____

תאריך: _____

Autopsy: Consent

I, the undersigned, _____, Israeli ID number
_____, am the spouse mother father
 brother sister son daughter, of the deceased

representative of one of the above (please specify who authorized you to act on
their behalf and attach a signed power of attorney: _____),

hereby **consent to conduct** an autopsy of the deceased _____,
Israeli ID number _____.

Full name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

בקשה לאי ביצוע נתיחה שלאחר המוות

* יש לצרף צילום תעודה מזהה של החותם על הבקשה

אני החתום מטה _____ (שם מלא), בעל תעודת זהות ישראלית
שמספרה _____ (מספר זהות), מצהיר בזאת כי אני, ביחס לנפטר: בעל
 רעיה אם אב אח אחות בן בת
 מיופה כוח מטעם אחד מהנ"ל (יש לציין את פרטי הגורם מייפה הכוח ולצרף ייפוי כוח חתום על ידו:
(_____

מבקש לא לבצע נתיחה שלאחר המוות בנפטר _____ (שם מלא), בעל
תעודת זהות ישראלית שמספרה _____ (מספר זהות).
ידוע לי כי יתכן שאי ביצוע הליך זה עלול לעכב העברת הנפטר לקבורה בישראל.

שם מלא: _____

חתימה: _____

תאריך: _____

Autopsy: Decline of Consent

I, the undersigned, _____, Israeli ID number
_____, am the spouse mother father brother
 sister son daughter, of the deceased
 representative of one of the above (please specify who authorized you to act on
their behalf and attach a signed power of attorney: _____),
hereby request **not to perform an autopsy** on the deceased
_____, Israeli ID number _____.

I am aware that failure to follow this procedure may delay the transfer of the
deceased for burial in Israel.

Full name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

ANNEX B: FOREIGN INSURANCE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE CENTERS

- חברת IMA
עבור חברות הביטוח: הראל (מאוחדת, ויזה כאל, ישראלכרט), אִיג (מאסטר כארד, אמריקן אקספרס, לאומי כארד), ביטוח ישיר, שירביט, מנורה, מגדל (איגוד הקיבוצים).
טלפון: 03-9206900

- חברת מדאסיס - MEDASSIS
עבור חברות הביטוח: כלל (כללית, לאומית ומכבי), הפניקס.
טלפון: 03-6440669

- חברת הביטוח פספורט כארד
טלפון: 09-8920930 (בשעות העבודה) או 09-8920920 (מוקד 24/7)

- חברת הביטוח דיוויד שילדס
טלפון: 09-8920950 (בשעות העבודה) או 09-8920920 (מוקד 24/7)

- IMA
For: Harel (Meuhedet, Visa Cal, Isracard), AIG (MasterCard, American Express, Leumi Card), Bituah Yashir, Shirbit, Menora, Migdal (Kibbutz Union).
Tel: 03:920-6900
- MEDASSIS
For: Clal (Clalit, Leumit and Maccabi), the Fenix
Tel: 03:644-0669
- Passport Card
Tel: 09:892-0930 (work hours) or 09:892-0920 (24/7)
- David Shields
Tel: 09:892-0950 (work hours) or 09:892-0920 (24/7)