

Disposition of Remains Report

Part I. Name of Country: Republic of Uganda

Part II. US Embassy Information:

U.S. Embassy Kampala

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Uganda Travel Advisory: Level 3 – Reconsider Travel

Reconsider travel to Uganda due to **COVID-19**. Exercise increased caution in Uganda due to **crime** and **kidnapping**.

Read the Department of State's [COVID-19](#) page before you plan any international travel.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)) has issued a level 3 Travel Health Notice for Uganda due to COVID-19.

Uganda has resumed most transportation options, with requirements for COVID-19 testing for departures and arrivals. Most business operations have resumed, however many schools remain closed. Other improved conditions have been reported within Uganda. Visit the Embassy's [COVID-19 page](#) for more information on COVID-19 in Uganda.

Violent crime, such as armed robbery, home invasion, kidnapping, and sexual assault, is common, especially in larger cities including Kampala and Entebbe. Local police lack the resources to respond effectively to serious crime.

Read the [country information page](#).

Register With the U.S. Embassy by enrolling in the State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) online at <https://step.state.gov/>

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

Country Profile: Religions

The U.S. government estimates the total population at 44.7 million (according to [The World Factbook](#)). The majority of the population is Christian – 45.1 percent Protestant, 39.3 percent Catholic, while 13.7 percent are Muslim, and other faiths account for 1.6 percent. The Uganda Muslim Supreme Council estimates Muslims (primarily Sunni) are closer to 20 percent of the population.

According to the Indian Association in Uganda, the largest non-African ethnic population is of Indian origin or descent, most of whom are Hindu.

A Jewish community of approximately 2,000 members is mainly concentrated in Mbale Town, in the eastern region of the country. Generally, religious groups are dispersed evenly across the country, although there are concentrations of Muslims in eastern and northern parts of the country.

Religious Activities For Visitors: English-language services are available in the Kampala, Entebbe, and Jinja areas for members of most religions and Christian denominations. A variety of fellowship opportunities are offered for all age groups and services are provided for the benefit of the foreign community in the area.

Part IV. Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services Available in the Host Country:

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy Kampala, Uganda 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.

Uganda Funeral Services	Plot 80A. OLD Kiira Road, Bukoto Kampala	+256 414 535 678 +256 414 258 044 +256 772 592 000 +256 772 493 812 info@ugandafuneralservices.com
Victoria Funeral Services	Plot 395 Sekimpi Road, Nkonge	+256 782 556 878 +256 792 112 999 Email: ugambula@yahoo.co.uk
A-Plus Funeral Management Limited	P.O Box 22546 Ggaba Road, Kampala Plot No. 1055, Nsambya Hill, Ggaba Rd Kabalagala, Kampala	+256 782482 888 +256 702 482 880 +256 706 156 685 Email: info@aplusfuneralmgt.com

Part V. Profile of services available in Uganda regarding

preparation and shipment of remains:

a. Disposition of Remains: If the next of kin or another individual who is responsible for making the funeral arrangements is in Uganda, that individual should contact a suitable funeral home (a list of funeral homes can be acquired via e-mail request to KampalaUSCitizen@state.gov). Ugandan health laws require prompt disposition of the remains. The remains are handled in accordance with the laws of and facilities available in Uganda and, in some cases, the services fall short of those expected in the United States. If the remains are being returned to the United States for burial, it is recommended that you contact your local funeral director prior to finalizing arrangements in Uganda.

Local law requires that all foreigners undergo postmortem (autopsy) examination after which the body will be embalmed, due to the unreliability of mortuary facilities, and the uncertainty as to whether the body may be repatriated. All autopsies in Uganda are conducted by the Head of Ugandan Police Forensics at the KCCA Police Mortuary in Kampala, regardless of where the death occurred.

If the remains are shipped to the United States they must first be embalmed or cremated, unless waived for approved religious reasons. The Embassy can assist in arranging this, though all costs must be paid by the next-of-kin. There are several funeral homes in Uganda that have provided adequate embalming and/or crematoria services in the past.

b. Specific facts relating to embalming, cremation, caskets, exportation, documentation requirements, preparation, shipment, and exhumation:

The laws cited are from the national law of Uganda, The Revised Administrative Code of 1964 Public Health Act (PHA).

1. Maximum Period Before Burial

When Remains Are Embalmed: (Sec.112-118 PHA) The maximum period before burial is not specific.

When Remains Are Not Embalmed: (Sec.112-118 PHA) The maximum period before burial when the remains are not embalmed is 36 hours.

2. Embalming:

(Sec.112-118) Embalming must be carried out, when possible, within 24 hours of death. Embalming facility is available only in the consular district at Mulago Hospital in the Department of Anatomy.

3. Cremation:

(Sec. 112-118 PHA) National law permits cremation and there is a Hindu crematorium in the country. According to the national law a written expression of a desire to be cremated by the next-of-kin, and cremation permit from the KCC (Kampala City Council) is required.

The crematorium will not accept bodies for cremation without a death certificate.

4. Caskets and Containers:

(Sec. 112-118 PHA) When remains are to be transported out of the country, the body is first embalmed or cremated for shipment. The body is then placed in a zinc-lined coffin, to transport the body. The coffin should be in a crate, or at least covered with a sisal bag. Caskets and metal containers are available from a variety of sources including the Ministry of Public Works. They are prepared according to international regulations and meet these requirements. Lead sealing is crucial for shipment out of the country.

5. Exportation of Remains:

Human Remains: (Sec.112-118 PHA) to export human remains, the following documents are required by authorities:

- a. Official Death Certificate,
- b. Doctor's Embalming Certificate,
- c. Police Clearance Letter (necessary if death involves an accident),
- d. Authorization Certificate from Health Department.

Ashes: (Sec. 112-118 PHA) to export cremains, the following documents are required by authorities:

- a. Official Death Certificate,
- b. Certificate of Cremation or Cremation permit,
- c. Authorization Certificate from Health Department.

6. Costs:

Charges shown are based on the exchange rate of \$1.00 = 3600 USH.

All fees are approximate.

Post-Mortem (Autopsy): \$600

Local Burial: The cost for preparation and local burial in Uganda is approximately US \$3,500 to US \$4,500.

Fees typically include a wooden casket, administrative fees, and the cost of a burial plot in a public cemetery. Transport fees are additional and vary depending on the specific circumstances and location of the deceased.

Cremation and Disposal of Ashes: Fees include collection and transportation of cremains, Doctor's certificate, Urn, crematorium fee, administrative fees. Costs range from US \$2,800 to \$3,600.

Embalming: Fees include embalming and doctor's certification; \$525.

Cremation: Fees include cremation and doctor's certification; \$475.

Preparation and Shipment of Remains:

(a) Fees include embalming, collection of remains, documentation costs, wood casket, and U.S. regulation shipping container are approximately US \$9,000.

(b) Add to this the airfreight charges as listed below:

Estimated costs for shipment of remains from Entebbe International Airport ranges from US \$5,800 to US \$6,000 depending on the final

destination in the United States (as of December 2020).

Below are the estimated costs for shipment of remains from Entebbe to several cities in the United States.

City	USD
New York	USD 5,800
Washington	USD 5,800
Dallas	USD 5,900
San Francisco	USD 6,000
Chicago	USD 5,800

The shipment cost is determined by the airline after the remains are accepted for shipment according to a special cargo rate based on weight. The approximate weight of a casket prepared for shipping is 160-200 kilos for an adult and 80-100 kilos for a child. The average urn containing ashes weighs 4-5 kilos.

Note that there may be local delays to conduct the postmortem report and issuance of required certificates for export, making it difficult to predict when the deceased's remains will arrive in the United States for a funeral. Please note that airline schedules and rules can change.

7. Exhumation and Shipment:

(Sec. 112-118 PHA) By law a body can be exhumed only after it has been interred for five years. An application must be made by the interested party to the KCC (Kampala City Council) Health Department. 8.

Remarks:

There will be additional costs if the remains need to be transported within country prior to their departure from the Entebbe International Airport. There will also be costs should the remains transit an

airport or make a stopover on route to the final destination in the United States. Please coordinate these costs directly with the airlines.