

UNCLASSIFIED MEMORANDUM

May 2018

TO: Department of State, CA/OCS/ACS/AF/LT
FROM: Melissa Ledesma-Leese, Consular Officer
AmEmbassy Maseru
SUBJECT: Disposition of Remains Report for Lesotho
REF: 7 FAM 260

The following information is submitted in accordance with the referenced requirements. Various local funeral services and freight service companies were surveyed in order to compile this data. The laws cited are from the national laws of Lesotho.

U.S. Embassy Information

American Embassy Maseru
254 Kingsway Avenue
Telephone: (+266) 22 312 666
Fax: (+266) 22 310 116
After Hours Phone: (+266) 5888 4035
Country Information Travel Advisory: [Lesotho-Level: Exercise Normal Precautions](#)

Register with the U.S. Embassy by enrolling in the [Smart Traveler Enrollment Program \(STEP\)](#)

Profile of Religions of Lesotho and Religious Services Available to Visitors.

Country Profile: The U.S. government estimates the total population at 2.0 million (July 2016 estimate). According to the Christian Council of Lesotho, approximately 90 percent of the population is Christian, including Roman Catholics, Anglicans, evangelical Christians, Methodists, members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and Pentecostals. The remaining 10 percent is Muslim, Hindu, Bahai, belongs to indigenous or other religious groups, or is atheist. Many Christians practice traditional indigenous rituals in conjunction with Christianity. There is a small number of Jews, most of whom are not citizens. Muslims live primarily in the northern area of the country. There is no significant correlation between religious affiliation and ethnicity.

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy Maseru, Kingdom of Lesotho 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.

Mortician and Related Services Available in Lesotho for Preparation and Shipment of Remains

Maximum period before Burial of Remains

Lesotho laws require that remains be embalmed within three days after death and interred within one month. Remains which were not embalmed must be interred within six days.

Embalming

Embalming services are provided by local funeral services and the average cost is M,920.00. The capacity of refrigerated units in private morgues with standby generators ranges from 12 - 50 units. Mortuary service for expatriates is free.

Cremation

Cremation is not available in Lesotho. Cremations are performed on request in facilities located in the Republic of South Africa as arranged by local funeral services. The normal product is fine to medium ash. The average cost for cremation is R8,000.00. Ashes may be exported by freight or courier services, as cargo, checked luggage or as cabin luggage. Ashes may not be exported through the Lesotho Postal Services. To arrange for cremation please contact the following funeral homes:

In Lesotho:

Name: Lesotho Funeral Services
Managing Director: Mr. K. N. Sello
Address: Hilton Road, P.O. Box 658, Maseru
Telephone: (+266) 2231 3066
Fax: (+266) 2231 0176
E-mail: ifs@ilesotho.com
Website: www.ifs.co.ls

In South Africa (the closest being in Ladybrand):

Name: Avbob Funeral Home
Address: Corner of Voortrekker and Joubert St.
Ladybrand 9745
Republic of South Africa
Telephone: (+ 27) 519 24 0556 / (+27) 51 534 8651
Fax: (+27) 519 24 0556
Email: ladybrand@funeral.avbob.co.za
Website: www.avbob.co.za

Caskets and Containers

Caskets and containers are available which meet the requirements for exportation of remains from the Kingdom of Lesotho. The embalmed remains are placed in a hermetically sealed zinc coffin which is placed in a packing crate. The zinc coffin costs M2,600.00. The cost of wooden coffins vary widely from M16,000.00 to M80, 000.00. Urns are available locally and the cost is M1,400. 00

Exportation of Remains

Exportation of human remains is regulated by the laws of the Kingdom of Lesotho and the Republic of South Africa. Rail service for transportation of remains from Maseru is not available. South African Air Link, the sole commercial carrier serving Maseru,

which flies only between Johannesburg and Maseru, does not transport remains neither does South African Air Express which flies from Bloemfontein, RSA. Remains must be transported by hearse to Oliver Tambo International Airport, Johannesburg, in the Republic of South Africa for exportation by air cargo to the United States.

Local Documents Required

Medical Certificate indicating cause of death
Removal Order
Death Certificate
Embalming Certificate or Cremation Certificate
Customs Clearance Certificate
Certified copies of passport of the deceased
Doctor's Certificate stating that the remains are free from disease
Transit Label with name of consignee at destination
Police report if death resulted from a crime
A report of the post mortem results

Costs

Charges are based on the exchange rate of May 2018: \$1.00=M/R12.50

Charges fluctuate widely and funeral service officials are reluctant to state costs hypothetically. Freight service companies have standard transportation rates based on weight and distance. South African Rand and Lesotho Maloti are used interchangeably. The summary of average costs quoted below is based on consignment to Atlanta, New York or Washington DC. Value added tax is included. Insurance is not offered but can be arranged privately. Clearance in the United States must be arranged through the receiving funeral home and clearing agent In the United States.

Airfreight cost in coffin:

150kg mass: M/R2,8000.00

Road Transport :

Maseru to Johannesburg: M/R4,500.00

Customs Export Clearance: M/R500.00

Airfreight as ashes:

10kg mass: M/R8,500.00

Customs clearance: M/R550.00

Preparation and handling: M/R3,720.00

Communication and Handling: M/R800.00

Note: Delta Airlines states that ashes may also be carried as cabin luggage, checked luggage or as cargo

Exportation of Remains:

In Lesotho contact as follows:

Inter freight Lesotho

14 /15 Lioli Road Industrial Area
Private Bag Z045
Maseru West 0105
Telephone: (+266) 2231 2853
Fax: +266 2231 0316
Email: Africa@interfreight.co.ls
Managing Director - Mr. T.A. Sekhoete,

Kayhil Freight

14-16 Lioli Road
Industrial area
Maseru 100
Telephone: (+266) 2232 4791
Fax: (+266) 2232 4564
E-mail: hilary@kayhil.co.ls
Managing Director- Hilary Woelk

Stuttaford Van Lines

P.O. Box 0637 Maseru West
Lesotho
Telephone: (+266) 2232 3966
Fax: (+266) 22 310 0290.
E-mail: venus.havenga@stuttafordvanlines.com.
Manager - Venus Havenga

Transportation of Full Body or Ashes.

In South Africa contact:

Tom Kight and Company

Local & International Funeral Directors
Telephone: (+27) 118 37 5531
Fax: (+27) 118 39 4116
After Hours Phone: (+27) 82 776 2189
Email: admin@thomkight.co.za

NOTE: Lesotho country code is +266 and South African country code is +27.

Responsible Authorities

Funeral directors and morticians are licensed by The Ministry of Health Department of Public Health, and by the Ministry of Trade. The Medical Officer in Ministry of Health and the Registrar of Deaths are responsible for making findings regarding the cause of death and for issuing local death local certificates:

Exhumation

Exhumation of remains is permitted by the laws of Lesotho according to the Registrar of Births and Deaths. Additional costs must be negotiated with local funeral services.

Autopsies

Autopsies are performed only by the pathology section of government hospitals. Hospital records and a death notice from the village chief (if death occurs in rural area) are required documents.

Local Customs

Local customs in Lesotho vary widely depending on the age and gender of the deceased, the economic status and religious beliefs of the family.