

**DISPOSITION OF REMAINS REPORT**

The following information is submitted in accordance with the Department requirements. Various area mortuaries were surveyed in order to compile this data.

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**Part I. Name of Country**

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South Africa

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**Part II. U.S. Consulate Information**

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**U.S. Consulate General, Johannesburg**

1 Sandton Drive, Sandhurst

Consulate Telephone: +27 (11) 290-3000

American Citizen Services

Tel: (011) 290-3000

Fax: (011) 884-0396

After Hours Duty Officer:

- From inside South Africa, dial 079-111-1684.
- From the U.S., dial 011-27-79-111-1684.

**U.S. Consulate, Cape Town**

2 Reddam Ave, Westlake 7945

Consulate Telephone: (021) 702-7300

American Citizen Services

Tel: (021) 702-7300

Fax: (021) 702-7493

After Hours Duty Officer:

- From inside South Africa, dial 079-111-0391.
- From the U.S., dial 011-27-79-111-0391.

**U.S. Consulate, Durban**

Old Mutual Building, 31st floor, 303 Dr. Pixley KaSeme Street, Durban, 4001

Consulate Telephone: (031) 305-7600

American Citizen Services

Tel: (031) 305-7600

Fax: (031) 305-7691

After Hours Duty Officer:

- From inside South Africa, dial 079-111-1445.
- From the U.S., dial 011-27-79-111-1445.

For detailed information about visiting South Africa, including suggestions regarding safety and security, see the Department of State's South Africa Country Specific Information page at <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/country/south-africa.html>

U.S. citizens living or traveling in South Africa are encouraged to enroll with the U.S. Embassy through the State Department's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP) website, <http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/go/step.html> so that they can obtain updated information on travel and security within South Africa. Enrollment forms and instructions are available on the Consulate General's website at <http://southafrica.usembassy.gov/ac-registration.html>. By enrolling in STEP, U.S. citizens make it easier for a U.S. Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. U.S. citizens without internet access may enroll directly with the nearest U.S. Consulate.

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

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## Country Profile: Host Country Religions (See “Background Notes: South Africa”)

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2898.htm>

According to 2001 census figures, 80 percent of the population is Christian. Hindus, Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, and adherents of traditional African beliefs together constitute slightly less than 5 percent of the population. Approximately 15 percent of the population adheres to no particular religion or declines to indicate an affiliation; some of these individuals probably adhere to unaffiliated indigenous religions. Many combine Christian and indigenous religious practices. The Church of Scientology has a small following. (International Religious Freedom Report for 2012.)

### Religious Activities for Visitors

The constitution of South Africa and other laws and policies protect religious freedom.

The following congregations can all be found within the Johannesburg consular district: Anglican, Baptist, Buddhist, Catholic, Charismatic, Christian Scientist, Church of Christ, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Church of Scientology, Congregational, Dutch Reformed (Afrikaans), Greek Orthodox, Hindu, Jewish, Lutheran (German), Methodist, Muslim, Nazarene, Pentecostal, Presbyterian, Seventh Day Adventist, Wesleyan and Unitarian. Many conduct services in English.

In the Cape Town consular district, services of most of the major religions can be found. There are numerous Christian churches and bible societies, Jewish synagogues, Hindu temples and mosques and madras (Cape Town has the largest concentration of Muslims in South Africa). Roman Catholic, Anglican, non-denominational Christian, African Methodist Episcopal, evangelical/Pentecostal/charismatic, Church of the Latter Day Saints and Orthodox Christian are among the Christian churches found in Cape Town. There are Jewish, Christian and Muslim bookstores carrying religious books, music and gifts. Religious services are broadcasts by radio and television. Both halaal and kosher food are widely available.

In the Durban consular district, all major denominations are represented and religious services for most faiths are readily available.

## Part IV. Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services

***\*\*DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Consulates in South Africa assume 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.***

### Mortuary Establishments in South Africa consular districts

Below is a list of hospitals and establishments in South African consular districts that store remains. Some of these establishments offer embalming services. Cremation services are described in a separate section.

## **Johannesburg Consular District**

### **AVBOB Funeral Services**

#### **Bloemfontein**

Cnr of Krause & President Streets  
Oranje Sig  
Bloemfontein 9301  
(051) 447 1011

#### **Johannesburg**

7 Owl St.  
Milpark 2001  
(011) 482 1027

#### **Pietersburg**

34 Schoeman St.  
Polokwane 0700  
(015) 291 1648

#### **Nelspruit**

30 Branders St.  
Nelspruit  
1200  
(013) 752 2695

#### **Rustenburg**

59 Nelson Mandela St.  
Rustenburg 0300  
(014) 592 8293300

### **Thom Kight & Company**

Corner of Hull and 16th Street  
Vrededorp  
Johannesburg

Tel: +27 11 837 5531/2/3/4/5  
Fax: +27 11 839 4116

## **Cape Town Consular District**

### **AVBOB Funeral Services**

Estimated cost of repatriating of remains:

All cost is only an estimate. These estimates included flights and a standard coffin/ urns.

It is standard procedure that AVBOB will obtain all relevant documentation from the South African Department of Health and Home Affairs.

Cremated remains:

R42.000.00 ZA (\$3,800.00)

Human/Body remains:

R61.000.00 ZA (\$5,500.00)

### **Atlantis**

Atlantis Medical Centre Circle  
Atlantis  
7349  
(021) 572 0256

### **Kimberley**

32 Dunell Street  
Kimberly 8301  
(053) 832 7254

### **Port Elizabeth**

Cnr Hancock & Harrower Street  
North End  
6066  
(041) 484 2731

## **DOVES FUNERAL HOMES**

Estimated cost for repatriation of remains:

All cost is only an estimate. These estimates included flights and a standard coffin/ urns.

It is standard procedure that DOVES will obtain all relevant documentation from the South African Department of Health and Home Affairs.

Cremated remains:

R37.000.00 ZA (\$3,400.00)

Human/Body remains:

R57.000.00 ZA (\$5,200.00)

Note: No branches located in the Northern Cape. Post works through the head office in Cape Town.

**Head Office**

19 Oxford Street  
Durbanville  
Cape Town  
Tel: 021 975 1010  
Fax: 021 970 2528  
info@doves.co.za

**Athlone - Cape Town**

4 Kismet Plaza  
Old Klipfontein Road  
Athlone  
Tel: 021 697 1645  
Fax: 021 697 0858  
athlone@doves.co.za

**East London**

38 Park Avenue  
East London  
East London  
Tel: 043 722 1858  
Fax: 043 743 0889  
eastlondon@doves.co.za

**Durban Consular District**

**Doves Funeral Parlour**

Tel: 086 002 5500  
Email: [callcentre@doves.co.za](mailto:callcentre@doves.co.za)  
Website: [www.doves.co.za](http://www.doves.co.za)

Services

A comprehensive service, including restoration art, embalming, exhumations, cremation & chapel facilities, repatriation (national & international) is provided at most parlours. The company subscribes to the highest ethical standards, respecting the dignity of a funeral and being sensitive to the cultural, ethnic and religious needs of all our customers.

## **Cremations**

Doves arranges Cremation Services for families who prefer cremations to Funerals. Doves arrange for those families who want to see the Cremation process. We also assist families who want to scatter ashes.

## **Repatriation**

Doves provides transport the human remains from the place of death to the place of rest within the borders of South Africa and to the neighboring countries: Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique and Swaziland. This service is also available to our National Contracts and Corporates. We have agreements with a few Mining companies and Insurance companies in South Africa.

## **Exhumation**

Doves has a few agreements with different Mining companies who need to relocate the remains of deceased Miners who must be taken back to their resting places in their home provinces. We also exhume for companies who would like to relocate graves to other areas for the purpose of using the land for a different need.

### **Ballito**

4 Gregory Park  
Tel: 032 946 3777  
Fax: 032 946 2740

### **Durban**

20 Fynn Street  
Greyville  
Durban  
Tel: 031 308 9200  
Fax: 031 308 9281  
[durban@doves.co.za](mailto:durban@doves.co.za)

### **Ladysmith**

23 Keat Street  
Ladysmith  
Tel: 036 637 6519  
Fax: 036 637 6519  
[ladysmith@doves.co.za](mailto:ladysmith@doves.co.za)

### **Margate**

Shop 1  
Pavillion Centre  
Margate  
Tel: 039 317 4843  
Fax: 039 317 4841  
[margate@doves.co.za](mailto:margate@doves.co.za)

**Pietermaritzburg**

20 Longmarket Street

Pietermaritzburg

Tel: 033 345 4321

[pietermaritzburg@doves.co.za](mailto:pietermaritzburg@doves.co.za)

**Pinetown**

Wakefields House Suite No 4

79 Crompton Street

Tel: 031 702 4498

**Part V. Profile of services available in the host country regarding preparation and shipment of remains:****A. Maximum Period Before Interment**

Providing the remains are not a health hazard, there is no set period in which burial must take place. The remains must be kept under prescribed conditions in the mortuary which has responsibility for complying with the law.

**B. Embalming**

Embalming is done in all major centers in South Africa. There are mobile embalming units available which are taken to rural areas and neighboring countries, (Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland) where there are no facilities for embalming. The embalming standards in South Africa are high. Embalming should take place as soon as after death as possible, but may not take place until the doctor has signed the death certificate.

**C. Cremation**

Cremation is permitted in South Africa. The family or their agent must instruct the mortician who arranges for all legally required documentation. In order to protect the interests of the deceased and their families, cremation requires extensive documentation and three death certificates which are issued at various stages of the documentation process by three different doctors. The final certificate must be issued by a doctor who has been qualified for at least ten years. If he refuses to sign the death certificate, an autopsy must be performed.

**D. Caskets and Containers**

Caskets and containers are available locally and meet the requirements for shipment out of South Africa.

**E. Exportation of Remains**

1. Ashes: The required documents for exporting ashes are:

- a) the official death certificate
- b) Cremation certificate

c) Affidavit confirming cremation details issued by Funeral Home

2. Cadavers: The required documents for the exportation of human remains are:

- a) Certified copy of the death certificate
- b) Embalming certificate
- c) Removal order
- d) Health certificate
- e) Mortician's affidavit containing flight details (if repatriating remains to US)
- f) Consular Mortuary certificate
- g) Non-Infectious Disease certificate
- h) Non-Epidemic Area certificate

3. The cadaver must be exported in a sealed, zinc lined casket.

F. COSTS (based on exchange rate of June 2, 2014, 1 USD = 10.63 ZAR)

1. Local burial:

	US DOLLARS
<u>Basic</u> - casket and services	1000 - 2,500
Cemetery fees/local resident	200/600
/non-resident	
Grave site/local resident	100/500
/non-resident	
Two copies of death certificate	First four are issued free
Preservation per day/first three days	
Thereafter	15
Telephone calls	55
Church service	75
<u>Solid Wood</u> - casket and services/additional	1500
Steel casket/watertight made in USA	8250
Embalming fees - arterial and cavity	260
After hours removal fee	95
Donation to clergy (optional)	50
Pall bearers	Arranged by family
Additional car hire	1,500
2. CREMATION	
<u>Basic</u> - casket and services	660
Cremation fees	150
Doctors' fees	50
Processing cremated remains	150
3. DESPATCH OF REMAINS OVERSEAS	
Casket and services	500 - 800

Embalming/arterial and cavity	150 - 250
Canvas bag	280
Inner metal lined coffin	370
Documentation	80 - 150
Transport to airport or docks	65 - 120

Airfreight and ocean transport will depend on cargo rates and vary significantly from one air/ocean liner to another.

#### 4. DESPATCH OF ASHES OVERSEAS

##### Basic – Cremation - (item 2)

Casket for cremated remains	35.00
Processing of cremated remains	150.00
Copies of death certificate	First four are issued free
Cremation certificate	Included in processing fee
Packing, handling and delivery	350.00
Approximate parcel post charges	65.00

#### G. EXHUMATION AND SHIPMENT

If the deceased died of natural causes, the remains may not be exhumed for reburial until two years after burial. If the deceased died of an infectious disease, the remains may not be exhumed for reburial until five years after burial. The family must instruct the funeral home and provide reason for disinterment. The funeral home must, inter-alia, obtain permission from the South African Department of Home Affairs, and also from local authorities. It would take approximately 8 weeks from receipt of the family's request until the remains are ready for shipment.

- (a) Exhumation (regardless of number of years after burial)-cemetery fees– USD 230.00
- (b) Preparation – USD 175.00

#### H. Toxicology/Histology Reporting

In some circumstances South African authorities may require a toxicology or histology report to be performed before a final death certificate is issued, especially in the event of death by unnatural causes (car accidents, suicides, e.g.). Please note the expected time to complete such reports by state authorities can be up to **seven** years, even for foreign citizens. There is no way to expedite this process.