



Alaska State Medical Examiner's Office
5455 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., Anchorage, AK 99507
Phone: (907) 334-2200; Fax: (907) 334-2216
Email: medical.examiner@alaska.gov

Authorization for Release of Remains

There is no legal requirement for the use of a funeral home or embalming. The State Medical Examiner's Office (SMEO) does not embalm or provide other funeral home services. At the direction of the next of kin, the SMEO can release remains directly to the family or to a funeral home. Funeral homes are often able to make the body more presentable and therefore help prevent additional trauma to the family. Because the SMEO assumed jurisdiction to determine the cause and manner of death, the SMEO will pay for the remains to be shipped back to the community nearest death. If a request is made to ship remains to a different community, and there are additional costs, the family will be responsible for the additional cost.

In the matter of _____, a deceased individual:

I, we, the legal next of kin, or authorized agent of the next of kin, do hereby authorize the State Medical Examiner's Office (SMEO), to release the remains of the aforementioned decedent to:

Name of person receiving the remains from airport or SMEO: _____

Address of person receiving the remains: _____

Contact phone # of person receiving the remains: _____

(Only cost to the family for this option is any additional transport cost if requesting remains to be shipped to a different community other than the community nearest death.)

OR

I, we, the legal next of kin, or authorized agent of the next of kin, do hereby authorize the State Medical Examiner's Office (SMEO), to release the remains of the aforementioned decedent to:

Funeral Home: _____

Funeral Home Phone #: _____

(Costs to the family may include selected funeral home services such as casketing, embalming, body preparation, transport, etc.)

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The undersigned assumes any liability for the release of these remains as directed.

Signature: _____
Legal Next of Kin

Print Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Date: _____ Witness: _____



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If the legal next of kin elects not to use a funeral home and to pick the remains up from our office in Anchorage or have the remains shipped directly to a community:

- The State Medical Examiner's Office (SMEO) will pay to transport the remains to the community nearest the location of death via common carrier (airlines).
- If the next of kin requests the remains to be shipped to a location other than the location of death, the family is responsible for any additional transportation costs incurred as a result.
- If the next of kin chooses to designate someone other than a funeral home to receive the remains, a Burial Transit Permit will be issued thru the Medical Examiner's Office at the time the remains are received. There is no charge or wait time for a Burial Transit Permit.
- The SMEO does not provide any embalming, dressing, casketing, or cosmetizing of the remains before transportation. The SMEO will provide for cosmetic services to make the head, face, neck and hands of the deceased presentable if those parts are disfigured by the SMEO examination.
- The remains will be transported back to the location of death in an approved airline shipping container, provided at no cost by our office. This container is constructed of plywood with a corrugated cardboard top. These containers are disposable and do not need to be returned.
- Transportation of the remains will be dependent upon the schedule of the SMEO and accommodating airlines.
- If the next of kin or designated individual is receiving the remains from our office, they need to call ahead to schedule an appointment. You may contact the office at our main phone number, (907) 334-2200, between 7:30 AM and 4:30 PM Monday thru Friday. If the next of kin chooses to transport privately, they will incur the transportation costs as a result.

If the legal next of kin selects a funeral home for embalming, dressing, casketing or cremation:

- The State Medical Examiner's Office (SMEO) will pay to transport the remains from Anchorage to the community nearest the location of death via common carrier (airlines).
- If the next of kin requests the remains to be shipped to a location other than the location of death, the family is responsible for any additional transportation costs incurred as a result.
- If the family selects a casket, the family is responsible for paying the additional transportation costs (extra weight the casket adds) of shipping the casketed remains back to the location of death.
- The required burial transit permit will be provided by the funeral home.
- The family is responsible for paying the selected funeral home for any embalming, transport or other services provided by the funeral home.
- The family is responsible for paying the funeral home for any clothing, dressing, or casketing provided by them.
- Certain funeral homes will not accept personal property. If a funeral home is selected that does not accept personal property it will be the responsibility of the next of kin to make arrangements to pick up the property at the State Medical Examiner's Office. Property can NOT be mailed.
- Some funeral homes will not release the remains until all costs have been paid.