



U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs
Disposition of Remains Report

December 21, 2017

Part I. Name of Country:

Fiji

Part II. U.S. Embassy Information

U.S. Embassy Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Tonga, Tuvalu

158 Princes Road, Suva Fiji

Phone: +679-331-4466

Fax: +679-330-2267

After Hours Emergency Phone: +679-772-8049

[State Department Country Specific Information](#)

[Register With the U.S. Embassy](#)

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

[Country Profile](#)

Religious Activities For Visitors: Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Baha'i

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

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy in Suva, Fiji 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.

Suva: Patton and Storck Funeral Home. Contact: Ramesh KUMAR . Tel: 679-330-0826 Cell: 679-9929972

Lautoka: Popular Furniture Funeral Home. Contact: Mohammed ISMAIL. Tel: 679-666-5355. Cell: 679-9940409

Part V. Profile of services available regarding preparation and shipment of remains:

What Happens First: If there are no suspicious circumstances surrounding the death, the attending physician will issue a doctor's certificate giving the cause of death, and the body can be released to the funeral home. Otherwise, the investigating police may order an autopsy.

Death Certificate: The official death certificate is issued by the Registrar General and can take several months to receive. Bodies can be returned to the U.S. based on the doctor's certificate.

Maximum Period Before Burial: Provided the body is not decomposed or the mortuary is not already full, the body may be kept in the mortuary for up to a week or even longer upon request. If the body is not embalmed, it must be buried within 24 hours.

Embalming: Bodies may be embalmed immediately (if no autopsy is ordered) at the Colonia War Memorial (CWM) Hospital in Suva or the Lautoka Hospital. If no refrigeration is available, embalming should take place within 12 hours of death. With refrigeration, embalming may be undertaken whenever convenient.

Cremation: Cremation is permitted in Fiji. [Dignified Cremations Ltd](#) is the only enclosed crematorium at this time. Hindu-style cremation is carried out by the local Hindu community in open air on a pyre, according to their traditional rites. A similar method can be used for non-Hindu cremation with the religious ceremony omitted.

Caskets and Containers: Caskets suitable for shipping remains to the U.S. are available in Fiji.

Exportation of Remains: For bodies to be exported, the death must not be due to an infectious disease, the body must be embalmed, and the body must be encased in a hermetically-sealed container and then placed in an ordinary coffin. The embassy will work with the local funeral home director to provide the necessary documents. Ashes can be placed in an ordinary urn or container, which must then be sealed.

Exhumation and Shipment: There is no fixed or minimum period of interment before remains may be exhumed. No exhumation may be carried out until the Health Authority is satisfied that there is no danger to public health. Application for disinterment must be made to the Commissioner of the Division.

Cultural issues related to funeral, mourning and memorial customs: None.

Approximate Costs:

- Embalming: Approximately USD 200.
- Local burial costs can range from USD 500 to 1500 depending on the casket chosen.
- Cremation, including transport charges, will usually cost approximately USD 1500-3000.
- Preparation for shipment including embalming, casket, and sealing would cost approximately USD 2000-3500.
- Transportation from Suva to Nadi by road transport would be approximately USD 300. By air USD500. Transportation from the outer islands could be difficult to arrange because of the lack of cargo space on the light aircraft operating within the country.
- Current charges for international shipping costs of a casket are estimated at USD 3000 for approximately 250 kg to the west coast and USD 4500 to the east coast. Exact international shipping costs from Nadi International Airport to the U.S. can be obtained from airlines directly.

