



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

December 21, 2017

Part I. Name of Country:

Kiribati

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 and 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.

There are no formal funeral home services in the country. Officials from the Ministry of Health would assist with burial:

Ministry of Health and Medical Services

Office Address: Nawerewere, Tarawa, Kiribati

Postal Address: P.O Box 268, Bikenibeu, Tarawa

Official Email Address: inquiry@health.gov.ki

Telephone: (686) 28100

Fax: (686) 28512

Office Hours: 0800hrs-1230hrs & 1330hrs-1615hrs

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

What Happens First: The body is interred as soon as the death has been certified by the responsible official and burial ceremonies have been held.

Death Certificate/Doctor's Certificate: The attending physician or other responsible government official will provide the doctor's certificate.

Maximum Period Before Burial: There is no legislation prescribing maximum periods between death and burial.

Embalming: Embalming facilities do not exist in the country and no legislation exists concerning embalming.

Cremation: Cremation facilities do not exist in the country, although local laws do not forbid cremation.

Caskets and Containers: Lead and metal caskets are not available in the country. It is possible that in Tarawa and on Ocean Island, a metal casket could be manufactured should the material be available.

Exportation of Remains: Ashes may be transmitted through the mail if properly packed. Legally, bodies can be shipped out of the country, however, due to a lack of caskets, exporting a body may not be feasible.

Exhumation and Shipment: There are no laws in Kiribati governing the disinterment and exportation of remains which have already been buried.

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

Approximate Costs: Burial is normally a free service by local authorities and the fee charged for a cemetery plot is minimal (under \$50). Authorities in Kiribati were unable to estimate the costs of building a metal casket, preparing a body for shipment, and shipping from the country to a port in the United States since such an event has never previously occurred. Because of the unavailability of caskets, it is doubtful that remains could be returned to the United States.