



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

December 21, 2017

**Part I. Name of Country:**

Nauru

**Part II. U.S. Embassy Information**

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

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[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 services are available

**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 funeral homes in Nauru. In the case of a death of an American in Nauru who has no relatives or friends in the country to assist with the burial process, the Office of the Secretary of Health and Medical Services would assist

Please visit <http://www.naurugov.nr/contact-us.aspx> for current contact information for the government of Nauru.

**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 body is taken to the hospital and a certificate of death is issued by the attending physician. The body is retained in the hospital mortuary until relatives or friends of the deceased have been contacted. The mortuary is not capable of long term storage, and generally in the case of non-suspicious deaths, the body is released for burial within 24 hours.

If the death is deemed suspicious the police are required to investigate the circumstances of the death and work in conjunction with hospital administrators. There are no forensic pathologists in Nauru and post mortems (other than an external visual examination) are not conducted by local hospital staff. According to Section 7 of the Inquests Act of 1977, the Resident Magistrate has the discretion to hold an inquest if the cause of death is in question.

**Death Certificate/Doctor's Certificate:** The death certificate is issued by the on-duty medical practitioner. A copy of the death certificate can be made available on request. Identification of the deceased person is required. Identification can be made by a person who has known the deceased for a reasonable length of time, generally supported by official documentation, i.e. a passport or other relevant documentation.

**Maximum Period Before Burial:** There is no period specified in the Inquests Act of 1977 as to when a body can or should be buried.

**Embalming:** There are no embalming facilities in Nauru. If embalming were required, the materials and experience would need to be brought into the country to conduct the process and prepare the body for shipment. It is important to note that the body would be required to transit a number of countries en-route to USA and quarantine and other laws would come into effect.

**Cremation:** There are no cremation facilities in Nauru.

**Caskets and Containers:** Lead and metal caskets are not available. Only locally constructed plywood caskets are available.

**Exportation of Remains:** Nauru does not have any laws concerning the exportation of remains or ashes from cremation. The Embassy is unaware of remains ever having been exported from Nauru and believes the cost of importing an appropriate casket, importing someone with knowledge of embalming, and shipment costs to the U.S. would not make exportation of a body to the United States feasible.

**Exhumation and Shipment:** A body may be exhumed for the purpose of conducting a postmortem in accordance with Section 8 of the Inquests Act 1977. Exhumation of remains and shipment of exhumed remains should be coordinated with the Department of Health.

**Cultural issues related to funeral, mourning and memorial customs:** Funerals in Nauru are arranged and conducted by the family members. Usually a local church is used but in some circumstances the body is taken straight from the mortuary to the grave site. Friends and relatives are responsible for the arrangements..

**Approximate Costs:** If a funeral had to be arranged and paid for the cost of coffin and preparation of the grave site is estimated at US\$300.00. The cost of repatriating a body back to America is not known because officials in Nauru have never had a case of repatriating a body. The cost of importing an appropriate casket, importing someone with knowledge of embalming, and shipment costs to the U.S. would likely make the exportation of a body to the United States impracticable.