



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

February 20, 2018

Part I. Name of Country:

New Caledonia

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, and Baha'i services 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.

Pompes Funèbres Calédoniennes

Centre commercial La Belle Vie

224 rue Jacques Iekawe

BP 30541, Noumea 98895

Tel. 40 50 21 / Fax. 44 54 74

Email: transcorps@lagoon.nc

Pompes Funèbre Trans Funéraires

230 rue Jacques Iekawe

BP 7766 Nouméa

98801

Tel. 41 11 11 / Fax. 44 11 91

Koumac Funéraire

238 rue Charles Cailley (lotissement Siquieros)
BP 308 Koumac
98850
Tel. 44 43 59

Municipal Morgue/Cemetery:

Centre Funéraire Municipal
217 rue Jacques Iekawe
Nouméa
Tel 43 22 88 / Fax 41 21 82

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

What Happens First: Within 24 hours of the death, an *official* death certificate must be requested from the morgue.

Initial Death Certificate (to be distinguished from the *official* death certificate): The doctor will issue an initial certificate confirming the death. If the death is not natural (i.e. as a result of accident, violence, suicide, etc.) the gendarmes or police have to be called, and then only the coroner can issue the initial death certificate.

If the person died of an infectious disease, the body must be placed immediately in a zinc-lined coffin, which will then be hermetically sealed. A certificate certifying that the body does not pose a public health threat must be issued. In all cases, the body will then be taken to the municipal morgue in Nouméa or to the deceased's home.

Documents required for the *official* death certificate: The person requesting the certificate must present an official form of identification (passport, French national ID card), along with the deceased's official ID and the doctor's *initial* death certificate. The person will also be asked to provide further details about the deceased (home address and profession, name of spouse if the deceased was married, widowed, or divorced; and the names, addresses, and professions of the deceased's mother and father).

Two copies of the *official* death certificate will be issued, usually the next day. They must be signed by the person who requested the certificate. If the deceased is to be buried locally, a burial permit will also be issued. It should be noted that burial plots are rented for limited time spans: 5 years, 15 years, or perpetuity. The prices and terms are set by the local municipality.

Cremation: There are crematoriums in New Caledonia. Transport of the body from the place of death has to be arranged with one of the mortuary transport (hearse) services, and a fee is charged in line with the number of kilometers between the place of death and the morgue/home. The body is kept in a cold storage unit at the morgue, and then it is prepared and placed in a coffin according to the arrangements made with one of the local licensed funeral homes. These services must be reimbursed.

If a member of the deceased's family is present, he/she can decide to have the body cremated and take the ashes along with him/her when leaving the territory.

Cremation can be arranged fairly quickly, thereby reducing the charges at the morgue. Requirements for air transport of the ashes should be confirmed with the specific airline.

Exportation of Remains: If the deceased's body is to be repatriated to the United States by air, it must first be placed in a hermetically sealed coffin. Proof of arrangements for burial upon arrival at the U.S. destination must be provided by the U.S.-based funeral home before the High Commission will issue the order releasing the body for air transport.

Proof of burial arrangements can be provided by the funeral home handling the burial in the United States, but a copy of the burial permit is required regardless.

The funeral home in Nouméa chosen by the family can help prepare the required documents for transport of remains to the United States. Some of the requirements for the transport of coffins depend on the airlines (Qantas, Air France/Aircalin, or Air New Zealand) and the authorities of any country or countries through which the coffin will be transiting (e.g. plane layover or change of plane) on its way to the United States.

Since there are no direct flights from New Caledonia to any point in the United States, it can take up to two weeks or more to work out all the formalities, especially if no direct family member is in New Caledonia to take care of these matters.

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

Costs: The cost for shipment of remains to the United States will depend on the route chosen, but it can be very expensive from New Caledonia, often double or triple the price of a full fare for a living person. Family members should carefully confirm with the funeral home the complete cost before authorizing payment of any kind.

To give an idea of the costs of transporting remains to the United States, at the time of report drafting, Aircalin charges XPF\$1864.30 (approximately USD\$19.34) per kilogram to ship a coffin with remains from Noumea to Los Angeles. For an 82 kilogram person, the average cost to ship remains from Noumea to Los Angeles would equal USD\$1586 plus the weight of the selected coffin (generally ranging between 45 and 135 kilograms, or USD\$870.30 to \$2610.90).