

§ 72.9

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appropriate notation made on Form FS-192 (see § 72.4(b)(1)).

(b) *Certificate of naturalization.* The certificate of naturalization of a deceased United States citizen should be taken up by the consular officer and forwarded to the Department for transmission to the Department of Justice; or, if the certificate is claimed by any person who may have a legitimate interest therein, it should be endorsed by the consular officer to show the date and place of death of the person to whom it was originally issued, and should then be delivered to the person entitled thereto, with appropriate notation made on Form FS-192 (see § 72.4(b)(1)).

DISPOSITION OF REMAINS

§ 72.9 Consular responsibility.

(a) In the absence of relatives or other interested persons, the consular officer should exert all reasonable effort to carry out the expressed wishes of the deceased or next of kin as to local burial, cremation, or shipment of the remains, taking care that the legal requirements of the country are met. However, the consular officer is neither authorized nor expected to assume any financial responsibility for, or to incur any expense in connection with, the disposition of the remains of deceased persons unless specifically instructed to do so by the Department. When the next of kin or other interested person cannot be reached within the period provided by local law for the interment or preservation of dead bodies and sufficient funds can be realized from the personal estate of the deceased in the consular officer's possession, he should arrange for disposal of the remains locally and draw funds from the estate to cover the costs (see § 72.39; also § 72.20 as regards withdrawals from bank accounts). If there are not sufficient funds in the estate to cover the costs, and funds are unobtainable from relatives or other interested persons, there may be no alternative but to accept disposal of the remains by the local authorities in accordance with local law or regulations. (See also § 72.13 for remains requiring special handling.)

(b) A consular agent may, upon instructions from his principal consular officer, arrange for the disposition of remains of deceased United States citizens. His principal consular officer has, in accordance with this section to § 72.14, the responsibility for reporting to relatives and for complying with the laws of the country in which the death occurred as well as the requirements of the United States.

§ 72.10 Local burial.

(a) *Arrangements for funerals.* When the responsibility for local burial falls on the consular officer (see § 72.9), he should endeavor to carry out the expressed instructions of the deceased or, in the absence of such instructions, the wishes of the next of kin. Funeral services should be conducted in accordance with the rites of the religious faith of the deceased, if known. In each instance the consular officer should notify known friends of the deceased and other interested persons in the consular district (such as any American community organizations) of the date and place of the funeral. When practicable, the services should be attended by a member of the consular staff.

(b) *Report to relatives.* The next of kin, or other person whose wishes have been considered in making the arrangements for local burial, should be informed by letter of any funeral service that is held.

(c) *Erection of markers.* If the consular officer is requested to make arrangements for the erection of markers on graves, he may assist to the extent of ascertaining any feasible procedure for making local arrangements and effecting direct remittance for this purpose, and informing the interested party accordingly.

(d) *Upkeep of graves.* The maintenance and repair of graves of persons whose remains are interred abroad, including officers and employees of the Foreign Service, is not a proper charge against official funds unless specifically authorized. If the consular officer is requested to make arrangements for the upkeep of graves, he may assist to the extent indicated in paragraph (c) of this section with respect to the erection of markers.