

# Disposition of Remains Report

Updated June 24, 2019

## Part I.

Brunei Darussalam

## Part II. U.S. Embassy or Consulate Information

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- [Brunei 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:

Brunei's constitution establishes the *Shafi'i* school of Sunni Islam as the country's official religion but states that all other religions may be practiced "in peace and harmony." The government permits Shafi'i Muslims and members of non-Muslim religious minorities to practice their faiths.

According to the 2011 census, approximately 78.8 percent of the population is Muslim, 8.7 percent Christian, and 7.8 percent Buddhist. The remaining 4.7 percent consists of other religions including indigenous beliefs.

### Religious Activities for Visitors:

The government funds and oversees the country's numerous mosques, which follow the *Shafi'i* school of Sunni Islam. There are two Christian churches in Bandar Seri Begawan, hosting services in multiple languages: St. George's Catholic Church and St. Andrews Anglican Church. A Hindu temple on the grounds of a military base in western Brunei welcomes outside worshipers during specified hours. There is also a Buddhist Association and a Chinese temple in Bandar Seri Begawan.

## Part IV. Funeral Directors, Morticians, and Related Services Available in Brunei:

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei 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.

- **B.B.T. Enterprise**  
 Arranges burials, cremations, and export to the United States of human remains and ashes and completes the associated documentation.  
 POCs: Tham Tong Leong, Alan Tham  
 Lot 2628, Jalan Pateh Berbai  
 Seria, KB1733 Brunei Darussalam  
 Phone: +673-322-3479  
 Fax: +673-885-5757  
 Mobile: +673-882-1381
- **Huar Enterprise**  
 Arranges export to the United States of human remains and ashes and completes the associated documentation.  
 No. 5, Kampong Berangan  
 Bandar Seri Begawan 1916  
 Brunei Darussalam  
 POC: Lee Boon Loh  
 Phone: +673-877-4414/+673-873-4414
- **Lee Poi Sin**  
 Arranges cremations and burials within Brunei  
 POC: Lee Boon Tee  
 No. 5, Simpang 2, Kampong Berangan  
 Bandar Seri Begawan BS8211  
 Brunei Darussalam  
 Phone: +673-222-4964  
 Fax: +673-242-0058  
 Mobile: +673-873-8194
- **Syarikat Rosmawey**  
 Arranges export to the United States of human remains and ashes and completes the associated documentation.  
 POC: Jerry Chee  
 No. 23, Simpang 284, Kampong Lambak Berakas  
 Brunei Darussalam  
 Phone: +673-860-0942, +673-881-2637

This information is provided for reference only. You are encouraged to make your own enquiries or to seek independent advice where necessary.

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

### a. Disposition of Remains:

There are five hospitals in Brunei: four public hospitals run by the Ministry of Health and one private hospital. Morgue facilities are located only at the public hospitals: RIPAS Hospital in Bandar Seri Begawan; PMM Hospital in Tutong; SSB Hospital in Kuala Belait; and PIHM Hospital in

Temburong. All morgues have refrigerated facilities for storage of human remains, but only RIPAS and PMM Hospitals have facilities for post-mortem examinations. Mortuary staff are based at RIPAS and travel to the other morgue facilities as needed. These mortuary staff members perform all post-mortem examinations and embalming services in Brunei.

Deaths in Brunei must be reported to authorities within 12 hours, according to Brunei's Births and Deaths Registration Act. A post-mortem examination is mandatory in the case of a death of a foreign citizen. The Ministry of Health charges a combined fee of \$445.00 (B\$600) for the post-mortem examination and embalming services. The post-mortem examination certificate may be used to register the death with the Department of Immigration and National Registration, which will issue an official death certificate. Information on documents required for death registration is available on [Brunei Immigration Department's Birth, Death, and Adoption webpage](#). Funeral service companies can assist with completing and filing the required documentation.

b. Special circumstances:

A post-mortem examination is mandatory in the case of a death of a foreign citizen. All post-mortem examinations and embalming are performed by government hospital mortuary staff, and the government charges a \$445.00 (B\$600) fee for these services.

Funerals for Muslim residents of Brunei are generally coordinated by mosque representatives at minimal cost. The Christian Churches in Bandar Seri Begawan can assist with arrangements for Christian burial. There is only one crematorium in Brunei, an open-air facility operated by the Brunei Hindu Welfare Board.

c. Shipping:

Any required in-country transportation of remains will be conducted by road. International shipping of remains will be conducted by air. Brunei-based funeral service companies (see list above) can make arrangements for in-country and international transportation of remains and ashes.

d. Local licensing authorities:

The Ministry of Home Affairs is responsible for licensing non-Muslim funeral providers. The Ministry of Religious Affairs is responsible for licensing Muslim funeral providers.

e. Local authorities responsible for determining cause of death and for issuing death certificates:

Pathologists employed by the Ministry of Health and based at government hospitals are responsible for determining the cause of death and issuing a post-mortem examination certificate. The post-mortem examination certificate is required by the Department of Immigration and National Registration in order to issue a death certificate. Please refer to the [Brunei Immigration Department's Birth, Death and Adoption webpage](#) for additional information.

f. Maximum period Before Burial of Remains:

Brunei's Burial Grounds Act does not specify a maximum period before burial of remains. Morgue facilities can generally store the embalmed remains of foreign nationals for several weeks.

g. Embalming:

Embalming is not mandatory in Brunei, and the remains of many Muslim Bruneians are not embalmed, as they are customarily buried shortly after death. The remains of non-Muslims are generally embalmed for burial or transportation outside of Brunei, as applicable. The Ministry of Health charges a \$445.00 (B\$600) fee for embalming and post-mortem services. Mortuary staff can embalm remains at hospital morgue facilities or, in some cases, at private homes.

h. Cremation:

Bruneian law permits cremation. There is one crematorium in the country: an open-air facility at Anduki in the Kuala Belait District of western Brunei. Cremation at this facility results in fine ash. The Brunei Hindu Welfare Board operates the crematorium and charges a fee of approximately \$735 (B\$1,000) for use of the facility. The Board also collects a deposit of \$185 (B\$250), refundable following use of the facility.

i. Caskets and Containers:

Funeral service companies in Brunei offer caskets ranging in price from approximately \$1,000 to \$4,000, depending on the design and quality. Sealed caskets that meet requirements for international shipment are available. Local mosques generally sponsor the funeral containers for Muslims who are buried in Brunei using donations.

j. Exportation of Human Remains/Ashes:

Funeral service companies (see list above) can assist with arrangements for exportation of remains.

k. Costs:

Costs listed are based on the exchange rate at the time of writing.

	<i>\$ (Estimated)</i>	<i>B\$</i>
<i>Autopsy including report</i>	<i>\$445</i>	<i>B\$600</i>
<i>Cremation</i>	<i>\$2,950-\$4,430</i>	<i>B\$4,000-B\$6,000</i>
<i>Embalming for exportation</i>	<i>\$445</i>	<i>B\$600</i>
<i>Embalming at residence</i>	<i>\$445</i>	<i>B\$600</i>
<i>Exportation of Human Remains to the U.S.</i>	<i>\$5,900-\$11,080</i>	<i>B\$8,000-B\$18,000</i>
<i>Exportation of Human Cremains/Ashes to the U.S.</i>	<i>\$740</i>	<i>B\$1,000</i>
<i>Local interment (Muslim)</i>	<i>Minimal cost (see i above)</i>	
<i>Local interment (non-Muslim)</i>	<i>Up to \$14,800</i>	<i>Up to B\$20,000</i>

I. Exhumation and Shipment:

According to chapter 49, section 11 of the Burial Grounds Act of 1951, exhumation is unlawful except by order of magistrate or under a license. The Act states, "Any person who shall exhume or cause to be exhumed any corpse or the remains of any corpse contrary to the provisions of this section or of any rules made under this section, or who shall neglect to observe any precaution prescribed as a condition of the license to exhume or who shall fail to comply with any reasonable directions issued to him by a health officer for the purpose of preventing danger to the public health, shall be liable on conviction before a magistrate to a fine of \$720.00 (B\$1,000.00)."

m. Local Customs Regarding Funerals, Disposition of Remains, Mourning, and Memorial Services:

Local mosques generally coordinate all matters relating to Muslim funerals in Brunei. Muslims are customarily buried soon after death, usually in a simple container and without any viewing or visitation. A memorial service may be held at the graveyard or at a later date.

Non-Muslim funerals generally include a viewing or visitation, use of a hearse to transport the body to the funeral site and cemetery, and burial, entombment, or cremation of remains. A funeral service company and/or local church assists with arrangements according to the deceased's religion, wishes of the family, and cultural norms.