

AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF REMAINS

In the matter of _____, a deceased individual:

Option 1 – The State of Alaska pays to have remains returned to place of death.

The legal next of kin may elect to pick the remains up from our office in Anchorage or have the remains shipped back to the place of death

The State Medical Examiner's Office (SMEO) will only pay to transport the remains **to and from** the location of death. Reference: 7 AAC 35.100(c). "Transportation of human remains", and AS 12.65.025(2) "Post mortem examinations."

- The State Medical Examiner's Office (SMEO) will pay to transport the remains to the location of death if shipped via common carrier (airlines).
- A family may request the remains be shipped to a location other than the location of death. If shipped to an alternative location, costs that exceed the cost of returning the body to the community closest to death are at the expense of the family.
- Before remains are transported the SMEO will provide cosmetology necessary to make the head, face, neck, and hands of the deceased presentable if those parts of the body are disfigured by the post mortem examination.
- The remains will be transported back to the location of death in an approved airline shipping container, provided by our office. This container is constructed of plywood with a corrugated cardboard top.
- If the family selects a casket, the family will be responsible for paying the additional transportation costs (extra weight casket adds) of shipping the casketed remains back to the location of death.
- Transportation of the remains will be dependent upon the schedule of the accommodating airlines after autopsy.
- If the family is picking the remains up from our office, they will need to call ahead to schedule an appointment. You may contact the office at our main phone # (907-334-2200). If the family chooses to transport privately, the family will incur the transportation cost as a result.
- If the next of kin chooses to designate someone other than a funeral home to pick up the remains, a Burial Transit Permit will be required. A Burial Transit Permit can be obtained through our office before picking up the remains.

The legal next of kin, or authorized agent of the next of kin, do hereby authorize the State Medical Examiner's Office (SMEO), to release the remains of the aforementioned decedent to:

Name of person picking up the remains: _____

Address of person picking up the remains: _____

Contact Phone # of person picking up the remains: _____

Option 2 – The legal next of kin pays for all funeral home cost and the costs associated with returning the remains to the place of death.

The average funeral cost in Alaska is in excess of \$8,000.

If the legal next of kin selects a funeral home for embalming, dressing, casketing or cremation:

- The family is responsible for paying the selected funeral home for any embalming or other services provided by the funeral home.
- The family is responsible for paying the funeral home for any clothing, dressing, or casketing provided by them.
- Certain funeral homes will not accept personal property. If you select a funeral home that does not accept personal property it will be the responsibility of the next of kin to make arrangements to pick up the property at the State Medical Examiner's Office. Property will NOT be mailed.

I, we, the legal next of kin, or authorized agent of the next of kin, do hereby authorize the State Medical Examiner's Office (SMEO), to release the remains of the aforementioned decedent to:

Mortuary: _____
Mortuary Phone #: _____

Disclosure:

The State Medical Examiner's Office (SMEO) is not required to embalm or provide other funeral home services. Likewise, there is no legal requirement for the use of a funeral home. The SMEO can release the remains to a funeral home, directly to the family, or to the family back in the community nearest death.

The undersigned assumes any liability for the release of these remains as directed.

Print Name: _____ Signature: _____ / _____
Legal Next of Kin Relationship

Date: _____ Witness: _____

Legal next of kin, or authorized agent of the next of kin, initial the option selected:

Option 1 _____

Option 2 _____