



Alaska State Medical Examiner's Office
5455 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., Anchorage, AK 99507
Phone: (907) 334-2200; Fax: (907) 334-2216
Email: medical.examiner@alaska.gov

Authorization for Release of Remains

There is no legal requirement for the use of a funeral home. The State Medical Examiner's Office (SMEO) does not embalm or provide other funeral home services. At the direction of the next of kin, the SMEO can release remains directly to the family or to a funeral home. Funeral homes are often able to make the body more presentable and therefore help prevent additional trauma to the family. The SMEO pays for remains to be shipped back to the community nearest death. If a request is made to ship remains to a different community, and there are additional costs, the family would be responsible for the additional cost.

In the matter of _____, a deceased individual:

If no funeral home is selected, 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: _____

OR

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:

Funeral Home: _____

Funeral Home Phone #: _____

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

Signature: _____
Legal Next of Kin

Print Name: _____ Relationship: _____

Date: _____ Witness: _____



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If the legal next of kin elects not to use a funeral home and 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 pay to transport the remains to community nearest the location of death via common carrier (airlines).
- 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 will be issued through the Medical Examiner's Office at the time the remains are picked up. There is no charge for a Burial Transit Permit.
- If the next of kin requests the remains to be shipped to a location other than the location of death, the family is responsible for any additional transportation costs incurred as a result.
- The SMEO does not provide any embalming, dressing, casketing, or cosmetizing of the remains before transportation.
- 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. These containers are disposable and do not need to be returned.
- If the next of kin or designated individual 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 number, (907) 334-2200 between 7:30 AM and 4:30 PM Monday through Friday. If the next of kin chooses to transport privately, they will incur the transportation costs as a result.
- Transportation of the remains will be dependent upon the schedule of the SMEO and accommodating airlines.

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

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."

- If the next of kin requests the remains be shipped to a location other than the location of death, they are responsible for any additional transportation costs incurred as a result.
- If the family selects a casket, the family will be responsible for paying the additional transportation costs (extra weight the casket adds) of shipping the casketed remains back to the location of death.
- 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 a funeral home is selected 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 can NOT be mailed.