

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH
STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER OFFICE

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER OFFICE
5455 DR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR AVE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99507
PHONE: (907) 334-2200
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AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF REMAINS

In the matter of _____, a deceased individual:

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 #: _____

If no mortuary 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: _____

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 to a funeral home or directly to the family, back to the community nearest death. However, the SMEO strongly recommends the use of a funeral home (at the family's expense) for proper disposition of the body after an autopsy. The SMEO does not prepare or embalm individuals and assumes no liability for the condition of the body.

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

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

Date: _____ Witness: _____

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 family requests the remains be shipped to a location other than the location of death, the family is 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 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.

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 location of death if we are shipping 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 can be obtained thru our office before picking up the remains.
- If the family 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.
- If the family is picking 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 costs as a result.
- Transportation of the remains will be dependent upon the schedule of the SMEO and accommodating airlines.