

Part I. Nigeria

Part II. U.S. Consulate, Lagos Nigeria

2 Walter Carrington Crescent, Victoria Island, Lagos

Phone: (1) 460-3400

Email: LagosACS@state.gov

[Nigeria Country Information](#)

[Nigeria Travel Advisory](#)

[Register with the U.S. Consulate](#)

Part III. Profile of Religions:

The variety of customs, languages, and traditions among Nigeria's 250 ethnic groups with 500 indigenous languages gives the country a rich diversity. Overall, Nigeria has approximately 54% Muslim, 11% Roman catholic, and 35% Christian residents.

The northern two-thirds of the country is predominantly Hausa-Fulani, most of whom are Muslim and practice traditional Muslim burial rights of burying the dead within 24 hours of death or as soon as possible. There are significant Christian populations in this consular district as well, including large pockets of Pentecostal Christians.

The dominant ethnic groups in the Lagos Consular District are Yoruba and Igbo.

Lagos has Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Catholic, and nondenominational services conducted in English. Lagos has no synagogues, but it does have at least one Orthodox church and several mosques that serve the community in English. The Lagos Consular District has large populations of both Christian and Muslim residents.

Part IV. Funeral Directors, Mortician and Related Services Available in the Host Country:

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Consulate Lagos, Nigeria 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.

1. Ebony Funeral Services

Address: 7 Igbosere Road, Lagos Island, Lagos

Phone: +234 (0) 803-335-3556; 803-354-5293; 803-323-8836; 810-084-9488

Email: info@ebonyfuneralhome.com

Website: ebonyfuneralhome.com

Point of Contact: Dehinde Harris

Services: recovery, burial, embalming, cremation, repatriation

2. Omega Funeral Home

Lagos State Address: 1 Cypstolu Obuzes Street, Ojodu Berger, Lagos
Ogun State Address: 57 Olurin Street, Opposite Coca Cola, Oju-Ore, Ogun State
Phone: +234 (0) 809 477 3375; 817-693-5332 (**Lagos**)
Email: info@omegafunerals.com
Website: omegafunerals.com
Point of Contact: Anu Ahmed. +234 (0) 817-693-5332;
anuoluwapo.ahmed@omegafunerals.com
Services: recovery, autopsy, burial, embalming, cremation, exhumation, repatriation

3. TOS Funerals

Address: 2, TECO Avenue, off Nurudeen, Olowopopo way, Alausa, Ikeja Lagos
Phone: +234 (0) 803-326-1119; 803-326-4140; 803-331-4755; 814-555-3586 (**24H**)
Contact Houston Texas: +1 (832) 542-2585 (Mrs. Bukola Feyisitan)
Email: admin@tosfunerals.com
Website: tosfunerals.com
Social Media: facebook.com/tosfunerals;
Point of Contact: Bayo Ogunsola
Services: recovery, mortuary, burial, embalming, cremation, repatriation

Part V. Profile of services available in the host country regarding preparation and shipment of remains:

a. Local government authorities (LGA) in Nigeria handle matters related to death in the country. When someone dies in Nigeria the family may get a medical certificate of cause of death issued by a licensed medical practitioner. The medical certificate of cause of death can be brought to the LGA with jurisdiction in the area and the LGA will issue a National Population Commission death certificate. These are generally handwritten certificates. Electronic records for the most part do not exist. Note that only one original death certificate will ever be issued. This process is relatively straight forward if a person dies at a medical facility or at another location under known medical circumstances, or in an obvious accident. When a person dies under suspicious circumstances the police may require an autopsy. The LGA or police may also require an autopsy when an accident is assumed, but not confirmed, to be the cause of death. The body may be taken to a morgue, which is associated with a hospital facility, for an autopsy to be performed.

b. Standard practice in Nigeria is that all bodies are embalmed prior to transport or burial, usually within 24 hours of death when possible. Embalming is generally performed before in-country transport due to the lack of quality, refrigerated transport in Nigeria and the poor quality of roads, which leads to long transport times. No other standards exist involving the body after death. Bodies buried in Nigeria are able to be buried without a casket, but local laws may prohibit this in some areas.

A local burial costs approximately USD 3000.00 – 5000.00, including collection and transportation of remains, wood casket, funeral home charges and administrative fees, cost of burial plot in a public cemetery.

c. Special Requirements: An autopsy is required in cases where cause of death is unknown, sudden unexpected natural deaths, violent, unnatural, or suspicious death, death from accident or misadventure (gun shot, alcohol, drugs, poisoning, drowning), deaths due to self-neglect or neglect by others, deaths due to industrial disease, accident at work, or industrial poisoning, deaths following medical intervention, deaths during surgery or before recovery from anesthesia, deaths following non-conventional medical practices, deaths due to suicide or suspected suicide, deaths in custody, deaths within 24 hours of hospital admission, any maternal death (including up to 6 weeks post-partum), death of a child in care, deaths where a funeral director is unable to secure proof that a medical death certificate of cause of death had been procured from a registered medical practitioner. A local autopsy costs from \$1,200 to \$1,500. Circumstances will dictate whether the family is required to pay for the autopsy.

CDC requirements for importing human remains depend upon if the body has been embalmed, cremated, or if the person died from a [quarantinable communicable disease](#). At this time, COVID-19 is a quarantinable communicable disease in the United States and the remains must meet the standards for importation found in 42 Code of Federal Regulations Part 71.55 and may be cleared, released, and authorized for entry into the United States only under the following conditions:

The remains are cremated; OR

The remains are properly embalmed and placed in a hermetically sealed casket; OR

The remains are accompanied by a permit issued by the CDC Director. The CDC permit (if applicable) must accompany the human remains at all times during shipment.

Permits for the importation of the remains of a person known or suspected to have died from a quarantinable communicable disease may be obtained through the CDC Division of Global Migration and Quarantine by calling the CDC Emergency Operations Center at 770-488-7100 or emailing dgmqpolicyoffice@cdc.gov.

Please see [CDC's guidance](#) for additional information.

d. Shipping. Human remains cannot be exported from Nigeria unless embalmed or cremated.

Local requirements for the exportation of human remains are as follows:

- (1) Medical Certificate of Death issued by the hospital that confirmed the death;
- (2) Nigerian Death Certificate issued by the National Population Commission;
- (3) Consular Mortuary Certificate issued by the Embassy;
- (4) Affidavit of Local Mortician issued by the mortuary;

- (5) Health Permit/Warrant to Bury issued by local health authorities – in the case of death from a contagious disease, a special permit must be obtained from the local health authorities;
- (6) Cremation Permit issued by health authorities and obtained by the funeral home.

Lagos has direct flights to Atlanta and New York via Delta Airlines. United intends to re-enter the market. Lufthansa and Air France will not ship human remains unaccompanied. Cremains can be hand-delivered, price depending on location.

e. Local Government Authorities are responsible for the licensing of funeral directors and morticians.

f. Local Government Authorities are responsible for making findings regarding the cause of death and issuing death local certificates.

(1) **Maximum Period Before Burial:** Under Nigerian law there is no specified maximum period for interment, and it may be delayed for any length of time. Muslim law and custom generally requires that Muslims be buried within 24 hours of death or as soon as possible.

(2) **Embalming:** Embalming generally takes place within 24 hours of death, where possible. The fee for local mortuary embalming is approximately USD \$250 - \$300. Storage fees are approximately \$3.00 per day with a \$120 Mortuary Service/handling charge.

(3) **Cremation:** Cremation is available in Nigeria. Delays may be encountered due to limited facilities and requirements for government approved witnesses. The pricing for cremation is approx. \$1,200 to \$1,500 which includes cremation, collection of ashes, documentation costs and packaging for shipment.

(4) **Caskets and Containers:** A variety of caskets and container options and prices exist in Nigeria. Caskets are reportedly not necessary for all burials in Nigeria, but some local jurisdictions may require caskets for burial. The common options for repatriation of remains, include a wooden casket with zinc lining for approx. \$1,450 and an 18 Gauge Hermetically sealed Batesville casket for about \$4,675.

The preparation of caskets and containers is regulated by the Ministry of Health. For the shipment of human remains to another country, the remains are placed in a wooden box with insides of metal zinc.

(5) **Exportation of Human Remains:** Services for the exportation of human remains exist. Standard preparation and shipping costs are not expected to be below USD \$8,000 to \$10,000. The cost of preparing the body for shipment is approx. USD \$4,300- \$7,500. That fee includes embalming, collection of remains, documentation costs, wood casket, and U.S. regulation shipping container. While there can be significant differences

between mortuaries for individual costs, in the aggregate, for similar services, most are reasonably consistent for a package cost.

Services for shipping include:

- Airport handling and logistics, approximately \$225-\$1200.
- Local Government Documentation, approximately \$225-\$600
- Casket Encasement, approximately \$175 - \$400
- Conveyance to the airport, approximately \$55-\$150
- Professional fee, approximately \$400-\$800.

The shipment cost is determined by the airline after the remains are accepted for shipment according to a special cargo rate. Shipment via Emirates Airlines is approximately \$5900 as of October 2020.

(6) **Exportation of Human Remains/Ashes:** Services for the exportation of human remains/ashes exist. Standard shipping costs are \$800 via Turkish Airlines air freight.

(7) **Costs:** Charges are based on the exchange rate of August 15, 2020: \$1.00 = 385 Nigerian Naira.

(8) **Exhumation:** Services for exhumation and shipment of remains are available in Nigeria and several factors, including the size and condition of the remains, may affect the price of these services. Local customs and laws may affect the ability to authorize exhumation of remains. Prior approval is required for exhumation.

(9) **Local Customs Regarding Funerals, Disposition of Remains, Mourning, Memorial Services:** The wide variety of ethnic, tribal and religious groups, and the interaction between them, makes it difficult to describe the local customs surrounding death in monolithic terms. Funeral Directors surveyed for this report state that traditionally Friday is the most common day to bury the dead, but Saturday and Sunday are also frequently used. Funerals and wakes can consist of close family and friends or can consist of a large ceremony with several hundred people and elaborate pageantry including hired bands and pallbearers, even for those with limited financial means. Muslims generally seek to bury the dead as soon after death as possible, generally before the next sunset. Muslim ceremonies often are simple including the lack of a casket or viewing, and many Muslims in Nigeria wish to lay the body on the floor during the ceremony and have contact between the body and the soil during burial, forgoing a casket. Christian and other groups sometimes hold a wake at the deceased person's family home a day before the funeral. The funeral homes surveyed appear to have a flexible approach to meeting the needs of the families in planning for the final disposition of remains. Elaborate and tailored ceremonies can be coordinated.