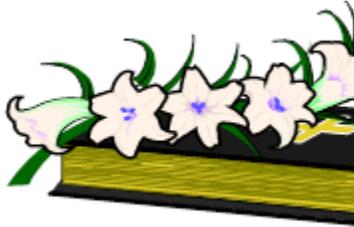


# Congreso de Paraguayos Migrantes en los Estados Unidos, Inc.



## STEPS IN THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE



*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we can comfort those in any trouble, through the comfort with which ourselves are comforted of God. 2 Corinthians 1:3,4*

### General Considerations

**At the time of the death of a family member, it is important to remain calm and consider how you will deal with this event, which is not every day. Once you decide whether the body will be buried in this country or be repatriated to Paraguay, the first thing to do is to consult one or more funeral directors about possible arrangements. However, the following points are noteworthy:**

#### **1. The viewing:**

**Generally, it is two sessions at the funeral home. In special circumstances, you can make a short visit before or after the public funeral service.**

#### **2. Selection of caskets:**

**A wide range of prices according to quality. If the body is being sent to Paraguay, there are regulations on the quality of drawers.**

#### **3. Embalming:**

**In most cases, it is required by law to have the body embalmed before sending abroad.**

#### **4. Cremation**

**Today, it is permitted in the Catholic Church. The process of a cremation funeral is similar to the traditional funeral. However, the cost of a cremation is much less than the normal process of burial. And the sending of the ashes is less expensive than sending the body. The urn containing the ashes can be transported in a suitcase. This is an option that could be discussed with the funeral director. Ashes should be treated like the body.**

#### **Sending the body to Paraguay**

**It can be complicated and expensive. Usually the funeral home makes all the legal steps in the United States, for sending the body. Legal steps in Paraguay should be made by the family.**

#### **Steps to take in Paraguay**

**The next of kin must contact the office of Ministry of Returnees, where all formalities begin. You must bring the death certificate sent from the U.S. (may be provided by the funeral director), and two estimates showing the cost of the funeral.**

**After the procedure, the agency (Ministry of Returnees) in Paraguay will contact the funeral home and arrange the payment. The agency does not provide a refund if the family has already paid. The deal is strictly and directly between the government and the funeral home.**

#### **In summary**

**On the death of a loved one, consider the following:**

- a) Do not rush to remove the body from the hospital. The funeral will take care of that.**
- b) Decide whether the funeral will be here or whether it will repatriate to Paraguay.**
- c) Take your time looking for prices for funeral services. This can vary greatly from one house to another or from one place to another.**
- d) Get advice from people you trust and have experience. The death of a loved one is not an everyday thing.**
- e) The CPMUSA is here to assist you in this difficult time. Contact us to accompany and advise, as we have dealt with many of these types of cases.**
- f) Visa Humanitarian: In some cases a family member residing in Paraguay can apply for this type of visa only if they are a close relative of the deceased and the body will not be repatriated. This is something that is decided by the American Consulate in Asuncion.**

### **Very important**

**Sometimes, people are misinformed about the arrangements and funeral expenses. Get your own information; do not be misled by rumors. If you have problems with language, it is helpful to bring a translator with you when talking to funeral directors to ensure that both parties are clear about the arrangements.**



**Each State of the USA can have their own guidelines.**

**When you choose to send the body, it must be clear to the funeral home on the legal paperwork, date of departure and arrival to Paraguay. Normally, the funeral is responsible in getting the body to the airport in Asuncion. From then on, the family is responsible. This is very important, especially for people living within Paraguay.**

**When removing the body from the airport, be sure to receive all legal papers.**

**Research prices at different funeral homes. Do not close a deal with any funeral home, until you find the one you feel comfortable with and meet your needs.**

### **Important:**

**Funeral homes are a business and they will try to sell the most of their services. This includes all the details, but every detail has its price. You have the right to choose or reject such details to reduce the total price of the service.**

### **Cemetery:**

**DO NOT buy a parcel of land before finalizing arrangements with the funeral director you choose.**

**Cemeteries have regulations or requirements in relation to the size and type of casket. It is important to consult with the funeral director about your preferences and requirements of the cemetery you have selected.**

**There are cemeteries that are less expensive than others. Also, there may be some areas which offer free burials.**