

Updated January 2023

Part I.

Name of Country - Georgia

Part II. U.S. Embassy Information

U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi
29 Georgian-American Friendship Avenue
Tbilisi 0131
Phone: (995 32) 227 70 00; Consular section (995 32) 227 77 24
After Hours Phone: (995 32) 227 7000
[Consular Information Sheet](#)
[Enroll with the U.S. Embassy](#)

Part III. Major Religions

Christian, Muslim, Jewish

Part IV. Funeral Home

Hermes
Didgori Street, Village Dighomi, Tbilisi
Tel: (995 32) 2212184, (995 32) 2212584
Website: <http://www.hermes.ge/>

Part IV. Disposition of Remains

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy Consular section in Tbilisi, Georgia assumes no responsibility or liability for the professional ability or reputation of, or the quality of services provided by, the following persons or firms. Professional credentials and areas of expertise are provided directly by the funeral directors, morticians and other service providers.

All the procedures connected with the preparation of remains can be carried out during normal business hours.

When an American citizen dies in Georgia, regardless of the cause of death, an “operative group” consisting of an investigator from the regional procurator’s office, an investigator from the regional police department, an expert criminologist from the local police department, and a forensic expert from a hospital, is summoned to the place of death. The regional police department is responsible for summoning the operative group as well as for notifying the Embassy of the death.

After examining the remains at the place of death, the group issues a report for the Prosecutor’s office, which includes a detailed description of the cause of death, three photos of the deceased, and affidavits by two witnesses. The group also issues a certificate for a forensic bureau to perform an autopsy. The remains are then taken to the Forensic Medical Department of the National Forensic Bureau by ambulance. There are no fees for these services.

Contact Information:

Forensic Medical Department of the National Forensic Bureau
D. Aghmashenebeli Alley 10; Tbilisi
Tel: (995 32) 225 8484
Website: <http://www.forensics.ge/>

B. AUTOPSY

An autopsy is usually required when a foreign citizen dies in Georgia. As an exception the family of the deceased can request that an autopsy not to be performed.

C. MORGUE

If an American citizen dies in Tbilisi, the remains will normally be taken to the morgue at the Forensic Medical Department of the National Forensic Bureau.

The best cold storage facilities in Georgia are available there. National Forensic Bureau has regional branches of Forensic Medical Department. There is no fee for this storage facility.

Storage facilities are also located at the following Medical Institutions:

The current charge for storage of remains at those facilities is GEL25 (\$15) per day.

Contact Information:

Pathologic Anatomy Department, Republican Hospital, I floor 29
Vazha-Pshavela Ave., Tbilisi
Tel: (995 32) 2311642

Iashvili Hospital

2/6 Lubiana Street; Tbilisi
Tel: (995 32) 2520523

D. DISPOSITION OF REMAINS

1. *Maximum Period Before Burial*

Under Georgian customary law, the maximum period of time permitted between death and burial is ten days. Remains can be preserved at a morgue's cold storage facilities and/or be embalmed regardless of whether they will be buried in Georgia or will be repatriated to the United States.

2. *Embalming*

It is preferable that embalming be performed within ten hours of death. Embalming is performed upon request and after paying the appropriate fee at the forensic center or the morgue.

Embalming costs approximately GEL 120 (\$50). If necessary, a certificate can be provided to confirm that the remains have been embalmed.

3. *Cremation*

Cremations are not performed in Georgia; the only options for disposition of remains are local burial or repatriation to the United States.

4. Caskets and Containers

The funeral service firm Hermes can provide local burial services. The price options, which are all-inclusive (burial plot, casket, etc.), range from \$500 to \$700.

Contact information: Hermes
Didgori Street, Village Dighomi, Tbilisi
Tel: (995 32) 2212184, (995 32) 2212584

5. Repatriation of Remains

For repatriating remains to the United States, it is necessary to have the remains prepared for shipment, to make shipping arrangements with an airline, and to obtain certain documents. The funeral service firm Hermes can provide a zinc coffin and wooden packing crate for shipping the remains, prepare all the necessary documents required for the Georgian Customs at a total cost of 2600 GEL (1000USD).

Contact information: Hermes
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Georgian customs authorities require the following documents for repatriation of remains:

1. **Physician's Report of Death**
2. **Death Certificate**
3. **Sanitary Epidemic Station certificate**
4. **Customs Department Report**
5. **Transportation Bill**

Physician's Report of Death

A Physician's Report of Death is issued by the forensic examiner at the morgue, stating the results of an autopsy, if performed, and whether or not the body has any infectious disease.

Death Certificate

Death Certificate is issued by the Regional Branch of Public Service Hall of the Ministry of Justice.

Public Service Hall Tbilisi Branch
Address: 2 Sanapiro Street, Tbilisi
Tel: (995 32) 2405 405
Website: <https://sda.gov.ge/>

Sanitary Epidemic Certificate

Issued by Hermes

A Sanitary Epidemic Certificate is issued on the basis of physician's report, the death certificate and a request letter issued by the U.S. Embassy. There is no fee for the certificate.

Customs Department Report

The Customs Department Report is issued on the basis of an examination carried out at the morgue by a representative of the Customs Department and the doctor who issued the Physician's Report of Death. After the examination, the casket must be sealed in the presence of the Customs Department representative. On the basis of the Customs Department Report, other required paperwork and the statement of the U.S. Embassy is addressed to Tbilisi Customs Department. The Customs Department will issue an Exit permit for the remains at the Tbilisi Airport.

Transportation Bill

An airline transportation bill can be obtained through the firms Globalink or Lasare LTD, which can arrange for the remains to be moved from the morgue to the airport, as well as for Customs clearance and, if necessary, airport storage.

Contact Information:

GLOBALINK LOGISTICS LLC

60 Nutsubidze Street, Tbilisi 0186, Georgia

Tel: (995 32) 2000238 (ext: 108)

Fax: (995 32) 220847

Mobile: (995) 595 903235

Skype: ia-meskhi

Email: i.meskhi@globalinklogistics.com

Website: www.globalinklogistics.com

Lasare Ltd.

Tbilisi International Airport

Tel: (995 32) 2450330; (995 32) 2450880

SHIPMENT INFORMATION

Lufthansa and Turkish Airlines can ship remains to the United States via Europe. The price varies from \$16 to \$24 per kilo. Because of the weight of the zinc coffin and packing crate, the remains as prepared for the shipment may weight up to 200 kilos.

CDC's regulatory authority under [42 CFR §71.55external icon](#) *Importation of Human Remains*, governs the importation of the remains of a person intended for burial, entombment, or cremation ("final resting"). This authority applies to the whole body or body portion of a deceased human being, including internal or external body parts, being consigned directly to a licensed mortuary, cemetery, or crematory for immediate and final preparation before final resting. This provision explains that if imported remains will undergo a medical examination or autopsy, the remains must be consigned

directly to an entity authorized to perform such functions under the laws of the applicable jurisdiction prior to final resting.

42 CFR §71.55 also indicates that certain human remains may require a permit under 42 CFR §71.54 *Import regulations for infectious biological agents, infectious substances, and vectors*. Human remains imported for any purpose other than final resting (such as research, training, education, ceremonial, collectible), or those remains of a person who died from a *quarantinable communicable disease*, unless embalmed, fall under the authority of [42 CFR §71.54external icon](#), and may require a CDC import permit.

[Permits for the importation of the remains](#) of a person known or suspected to have died from a quarantinable communicable disease such as COVID-19 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.

There are **no requirements** for importation of human remains consisting entirely of

- Clean, dry bones or bone fragments; human hair; teeth; fingernails or toenails; or
- A deceased human body and portions thereof that have already been fully cremated before importation.

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

**All documents need to be translated and notarized.*

**Any Georgian public document that is intended to be used in the U.S. should be endorsed with an Apostille at the Public Service Hall of the Ministry of Justice (see above for contact information).*