

DISPOSITION OF REMAINS REPORT

June 22, 2018*

Part I. Country - Côte d'Ivoire

Part II. U.S. Embassy Information

U.S. Embassy Abidjan
BP 730 Abidjan Cedex 03
Tel: (+225) 22 49 40 00
Fax: (+225) 22 49 42 02
Afterhours: (+225) 22 49 40 04
Email: abjamcit@state.gov

Country Specific Information: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/CotedvIoire.html>

Register with the U.S. Embassy in Abidjan via the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program: <https://step.state.gov/STEP/Pages/Common/Subscribe.aspx>

Part III. Profile of Religions of the Host Country and Religious Services available to visitors

Country Profile: Côte d'Ivoire is a secular state where religious freedom is practiced. The dominant religions are: Christian (Catholic, Protestant), Islam, and Judaism.

Religious Activities for Visitors: There are many mosques and churches in Abidjan. Christian denominations represented include Roman Catholic, Unified Methodist, Protestant, Seventh-Day Adventist, Assembly of God, Church of Latter Day Saints, and Baptist "Oeuvres et Missions".

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

DISCLAIMER: The U.S. Embassy in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire 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.

The "**Société Ivoirienne des Sépultures et des Transports Spéciaux**" (**IVOSEP**) holds an official monopoly on mortuary services in Côte d'Ivoire. IVOSEP manages five morgues in the Abidjan Consular District: The main facility on the Boulevard Giscard d'Estaing (VGE), University Hospital Center (CHU) Cocody, CHU Treichville, CHU Yopougon, and the Military Hospital of Abidjan (HMA) located in Abobo. They also have

*COVID-19 section updated 4/7/2020.

offices with adequate embalming facilities in almost all towns up country (see Remarks).

IVOSEP contact information:

Mailing Address: 05 BP 989 Abidjan 05, Cote d'Ivoire
Email: info@ivosep.net;
Phone: (+225) 21 25 69 25
Office mobile: (+225) 02 50 47 02; 07 61 55 36
Fax: 21 25 02 56

Heads of Commercial Department:
Mr. Jean Marc AFFIAN, tel: 07 67 30 97
Ms. Kady ARCHER, tel: 07 61 55 36.

Part V. Services available in Côte d'Ivoire regarding preparation and shipment of remains:

1. MAXIMUM PERIOD BEFORE BURIAL OF REMAINS

➤ ***When remains are embalmed:***

Once embalming has been performed and the remains are placed in refrigerated storage, the burial may be delayed up to one (1) month.

➤ ***When remains are not embalmed:***

The maximum period before burial when the remains are not embalmed is 3 days.

2. EMBALMING

Embalming is best carried out within twenty-four hours of death but no later than three (3) days, although this is not required under Ivorian law for local burial. Embalming services exist in all the above-mentioned mortuaries (part 4) as well as in all cold storages facilities in the up country managed by IVOSEP (see Item 9). The principal morgue in Abidjan (VGE) charges a fee of CFA 9,500 per day- (approximately \$16.29 at the current exchange rate), excluding taxes, for the storage of remains. A fee of **\$12.86** (CFA 7,500) per day, excluding taxes, is charged for all others IVOSEP morgues located in Abidjan. IVOSEP secures authorization for embalming as required by Ivorian authorities and issues certification thereafter.

3. CREMATION

Cremation is not possible in Côte d'Ivoire, as there are no facilities. If the family elects this option, the cremation will be performed in Ghana. The average fee for cremation in Accra ranges from **\$2058** (CFA 1,200,000) to **\$2573** (CFA 1,500,000).

Additional costs must be paid and vary from **\$2340** (CFA 2,000,000) to **\$4288** (CFA 2,500,000). These include transportation of the remains to/from Accra, treatment and storage of remains, and various administrative procedures.

Once the service is performed, the ashes are sent back to Abidjan either for local delivery to the family or shipment to the United States of America. In case of local delivery, the family receives the ashes upon signing a certificate of release. If the family opts for the shipment of the ashes, the procedure will be the same as for the remains (*see Item 5*).

4. CASKETS AND CONTAINERS

When remains are to be transported out of the country, the body must be first embalmed. It is then placed in a zinc coffin within a hardwood coffin, which is sealed by soldering and finally encased in a wooden shipping crate for air transport. All containers are available through IVOSEP.

5. EXPORTATION OF REMAINS

A. Human Remains:

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

- Embalming of the remains.
- Enclosure of the body as described in Part D, above.
- ❖ *Documents issued by the Hospital or the Forensic Pathologist*
 - Death Certificate
 - Medical Report of Cause of Death in quadruplicate "*Certificat de Genre de Mort*"
 - Embalming authorization from civil authorities "*Certificat de Non Contagion*"
 - Procès-Verbal de Constatation de Décès
- ❖ *Documents issued by the City Hall where the death occurred*
 - Death Certificate (Extract and Full Copy) "*Extrait d'Acte de Décès*" and "*Copie Intégrale d'Acte de Décès*"
 - Authorization for Burial from Civil Authorities "*Permis d'Inhumer*"
- ❖ *Documents issued by Ministry of Interior*
 - Authorization for Transfer of remains from the Ministry of Interior "*Arrêté de Transfert du Corps*".
 - Certificate of Embalming "*Attestation de Soins Somatiques*"
- ❖ *Documents issued by IVOSEP*
 - Police Embalming Certificate "*Procès-Verbal de Soins Somatiques*"
 - Police Certificate of Placement of Remains in Coffin "*Procès Verbal de Mise en Bière*"
- ❖ *Documents issued by the Consular Section*
 - Consular Report on Death Abroad
 - Affidavit by the Funeral Home Director
 - Transit Permit "*Autorisation de Transfert*"

Note: IVOSEP secures these locally required documents. Export of remains can be organized within one (1) week, though more time must be allowed if transport from up country is necessary. Abidjan has daily flights to Europe, and biweekly flights to the United States.

B. Human Remains/Ashes:

After the cremation is done in Ghana, the ashes are returned to Côte d'Ivoire in a sealed urn which is wrapped in cretonne fabric. The shipment of ashes to the United States follows the same procedure as for the human remains. The same documentary requirements apply with the addition of the cremation certificate.

6. COSTS

Charges shown are based on an exchange rate of June 18, 2018: **\$1.00 = 581 FCFA**. All fees are approximate.

A. Local Burial:

Fees are average and include collection and transportation of remains, preparation, median price-range casket, funeral home charges, burial plot and interment, all documentation and administrative fees. It does not include a press notice, flowers, or a religious service) range from **\$1549** (CFA 900,000) to **\$3442** (CFA 2,000,000)

B. Preparation and Shipment of Remains:

- Basic fees include embalming, collection of remains, documentation costs, wood casket and transfer to airport: **\$3137** (CFA 1,650,000)
- In addition, shipment costs will be charged based on an average weight of 250 kilograms (550 lbs) for coffin and containers. The shipment cost includes taxes and transit fees determined by the airline based upon the destination city.
- For reference, below are the current charges for Air France.

| DESTINATION | CFA/KG | USD/KG | TOTAL FREIGHT+TAXES | | TOTAL SHIPMENT CFA/USD (includes Transit Cost) | |
|----------------|--------|---------|---------------------|--------|---|--------|
| | | | CFA | USD | | |
| Atlanta | 7200 | \$12.39 | 1,833,650 | \$3156 | 2,094,635 | \$3605 |
| Chicago | 7200 | \$12.39 | 1,833,650 | \$3156 | 2,094,635 | \$3605 |
| Detroit | 7100 | \$12.22 | 1,808,650 | \$3112 | 2,068,920 | \$3560 |
| Los Angeles | 7900 | \$13.59 | 2,008,650 | \$3457 | 2,273,310 | \$3912 |
| New York | 6600 | \$11.35 | 1,683,650 | \$2898 | 1,941,225 | \$3341 |
| San Francisco | 7900 | \$13.59 | 2,008,650 | \$3457 | 2,273,310 | \$3912 |
| Washington, DC | 6900 | \$12.00 | 1,758,650 | \$3027 | 2,018,435 | \$3474 |

C. In-Country Transportation:

Where death occurs in the interior of the country, remains may be transported to Abidjan by IVOSEP. For this service, a base fee of **\$1.03** (CFA 600) per kilometer is charged. Mileage charges are for a round-trip since services are based in Abidjan. Below are round-trip transportation costs between Abidjan and selected major cities of Côte d'Ivoire.

| Cities | KM to ABJ | Round-Trip Costs/ CFA & USD | |
|------------|-----------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Abengourou | 210 | 252,000 | \$433.73 |
| Bondoukou | 454 | 544,800 | \$937.69 |
| Bouake | 379 | 454,800 | \$782.78 |
| Daloa | 406 | 487,200 | \$838.55 |

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|---------|-----------|
| Gagnoa | 333 | 399,600 | \$687.77 |
| Korhogo | 634 | 760,800 | \$1309.46 |
| San Pedro | 500 | 600,000 | \$1032.70 |
| Yamoussoukro | 266 | 319,200 | \$549.39 |

7. EXHUMATION AND SHIPMENT

By law, exhumation is permitted no sooner than one year after interment. The average cost may range from **\$4302** (CFA 2,500,000) to **\$6024** (CFA 3,500,000) and include exhumation, casket and preparation, documentation costs and transfer to airport. Airfreight charges will vary depending on the destination and the airline company selected.

8. AUTOPSY REQUIREMENTS

By law, an autopsy must be performed when death occurs outside a hospital - for example, at home or in the hotel- resulting from an accident, or at the request of either the family or the public prosecutor. The average cost of the autopsy is **\$792** (CFA 460,000) and includes a full, written report.

9. LOCAL CUSTOMS REGARDING FUNERALS, DISPOSITION OF REMAINS, MOURNING, MEMORIAL SERVICES:

If the next of kin chooses to have the remains interred in Abidjan there are religious funeral and burial services available. The Embassy can help next of kin make contact with local religious organizations. The main religions represented are: Christians (Catholics, Protestants), Muslims and Jewish.

10. COVID-19

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.

REMARKS

Mortuaries managed by IVOSEP up country:

- ✓ Abengourou, Affery, Alepe
- ✓ Beoumi, Bocanda, Bondoukou, Bongouanou, Bouafle, Bouake
- ✓ Dabou, Daloa, Daoukro, Dimbokro, Djekanou
- ✓ Gagnoa, Katiola, Lakota
- ✓ Man, M'Bahiakro, Oume
- ✓ San Pedro, Tanda, Tiassale, Tiebissou
- ✓ Yamoussoukro