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Information for Medical Examiners and Coroners
From Deer Creek Law Enforcement Training Center with information from
the U.S. Department of State

Greetings:

The **CONSULAR NOTIFICATION FACT SHEET for Medical Examiners and Coroners** (enclosed below) is being provided for medical examiners and coroners.

If you do not already have the U.S. Department of State Manual on **Consular Notification and Access**, (published September, 2018) I would be glad to e-mail a copy to you in PDF format. This manual contains instructions for federal, state, and local law enforcement and other officials* regarding foreign nationals in the U.S. and the rights of consular officials to assist them. (The part about deaths of foreign nationals is covered in this manual on pages 9-10.)

Please share with the members of your associations and anyone else who might benefit.

If you have further questions, you are welcome to contact me, anytime.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James B. Simmerman".

James B. Simmerman

* "Other officials" in the **Consular Notification and Access** manual would include medical examiner and coroner jurisdictions when a death occurs in their jurisdiction in the United States.

Enclosure:

CONSULAR NOTIFICATION FACT SHEET
for Medical Examiners and Coroners

The requirement to notify a consular officer in cases of deaths of foreign nationals is set out in Article 37(a) of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. Article 5 recognizes the functions of consular officers relating to deaths and estates.

Definitions

Foreign national: any person who is not a U.S. citizen. Note that green card holders/permanent resident aliens are not U.S. citizens.

Consul/consular officer: foreign government official accredited by the U.S. Department of State to provide assistance on behalf of that government to that government's citizens in the U.S.

When to Notify the Foreign Consul

If you become aware of the death of a foreign national in the United States, you must ensure that the nearest consulate of that national's country is notified of the death without delay. This will permit the foreign government to make an official record of the death for its own legal purposes. For example, such notice will help ensure that passports and other legal documentation issued by that country are canceled and not reissued to fraudulent claimants. In addition, it may help ensure that the foreign national's family and legal heirs, if any, in the foreign country are aware of the death and that the death is known for estate purposes in the foreign national's country. Once notified of a death, consular officers may in some circumstances act to conserve the decedent's estate, in accordance with the laws and regulations applicable in the jurisdiction.

How to Notify the Foreign Consul

Contact the decedent's embassy or nearest consulate. You can provide notification by email, fax or a phone call. You may use the ***Suggested Fax Sheet for Notifying Consular Officers of Death or Serious Injuries***. This form is on our web page at travel.state.gov/CNA. Phone numbers, fax numbers and email addresses for foreign embassies and consulates are also at travel.state.gov/CNA. Keep a written record of the date, time and method of notification in the event questions regarding notification arise later, including a copy of the sent email or fax receipt.

For Guidance and Information

Contact the Office of Policy Coordination and Public Affairs in the Bureau of Consular Affairs.

Web Site travel.state.gov/CNA
Phone **202-485-7703**
Email consnot@state.gov

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