

DEATHS INVOLVING BRITISH NATIONALS IN

Luxembourg

The death of a relative or friend is always distressing. But if it happens abroad the distress can be made worse by practical problems. Consular Directorate in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Consular Section of the British Embassy in Luxembourg are ready to help in any way that they can. You may be uncertain what to do next or who to contact for advice. These notes are designed to help you through the practical arrangements you will need to make. While care has been taken in compiling these notes, no legal liability for their contents is accepted by the British Embassy in Luxembourg or HM Government.

You should be aware that Luxembourg procedures differ from those in the United Kingdom. While we understand your need to make arrangements as quickly as possible, this may not always be possible.

Standard Procedures

A death must be reported and registered at the earliest possible opportunity at the Civil Registrar's office (*Bureau de l'Etat civil*) of the commune where the death occurred. This can be done by anyone, including the funeral company/undertaker or a relative of the deceased.

There is [more detailed information](#) available (in French) together with a [list of cantons and their communes](#)

A death certificate (*acte de décès*), is issued by the Civil Registrar together with two transport permits (*permis de transport*) for the remains. One of the transport permits must be given to the funeral company, the other is for the administration office of the commune where the burial is to take place.

The following documents must be presented when declaring a death:

- The death certificate issued by the doctor (*certificat de décès*)

- The family booklet (*livret de famille*) or all identity documents of the deceased (birth certificate, wedding certificate, passport and identity card; the driving licence of the deceased may also be required)
- A will or similar document, if one exists
- If the deceased will be buried in a different commune, a certificate of burial (*certificat d'enterrement*) is required

Following the death of a British national in Luxembourg, next of kin or a formally appointed representative, must decide whether to repatriate the deceased to the UK, or opt for a local burial or cremation. **Whatever the decision, it is important for next of kin to inform the hospital/funeral director very quickly as to whether they or the insurance company will meet the cost of the funeral/ cremation/ repatriation. Should next of kin not wish to pay/deal with this they can hand over to the Luxembourg social services in which case they will have no say in the disposal of the body.** Consular staff in London will pass on to the Consulate overseas the wishes of the next of kin about disposal of the body. We will do our best to ensure these wishes are carried out.

If the deceased was covered by travel insurance, it is important for next of kin to contact the insurance company without delay. If there is no insurance cover, the cost of repatriation or burial will have to be met by the family. Neither the Foreign and Commonwealth Office nor the Embassy in Luxembourg have budgets to meet these costs.

If the deceased was travelling with a tour operator, they can be a valuable source of assistance and advice.

It is important to note that the cause of death is not mentioned on a Luxembourgian death certificate.

Death certificate:

A doctor will issue a Medical certificate certifying the cause of death. The police will usually arrange for a doctor to come to the scene of the death, unless an ambulance has been called by next of kin to take the deceased direct to hospital.

A local Death Certificate will be issued by the local Town Hall/Commune in Luxembourg, based on the doctor's Medical certificate, deceased's passport and any other official documents the Next of kin is able to provide (birth certificates of both parties/marriage certificate). Translation of official documents is not usually required for deaths in Luxembourg City or the larger towns. However, if death occurs in a small town/village, the English certificates may need to be translated into French or German by an officially recognised translator.

Inquest:

A post mortem will take place if the death is violent, is regarded as suspicious, or at the request of the next of kin. The regional court will then deal with the case.

Repatriation

If the deceased was covered by travel insurance, the insurance company will normally appoint an International funeral director to arrange repatriation. If the deceased did not have insurance, next of kin will need to appoint an International funeral director themselves. A list of companies is attached to the back of this document. The International funeral director will liaise with the local undertaker to ensure that all necessary requirements in Luxembourg are met.

When the deceased is to be repatriated, the remains must be embalmed and placed in a zinc-lined coffin. Local undertakers in Luxembourg are equipped to carry out these procedures. The local undertaker will also arrange for the local civil registry death certificate, a certificate of embalming and a certificate giving permission to transfer the remains to the UK.

In certain circumstances repatriation may not always be possible. Our consular staff will try and inform next of kin as soon as possible if this is the case.

Local Burial and Cremation

If next of kin choose to proceed with a local burial, they will need to instruct a local funeral director. Our Embassy in Luxembourg can provide a list of funeral directors on request, and can help with practical arrangements.

Burial/cremation under normal circumstances should take place within 72 hours of death, with the possibility of an extension of 24 hours. Body of deceased can remain at home for up to 3 days.

Burial/cremation for non residents and foreign residents can be extended for up to 6 working days. However body of deceased must be transferred to a morgue within 72 hours of death.

Only Luxembourg residents can be buried in named burial plot/grave in Luxembourg. Non residents can either be buried in an anonymous grave or be cremated.

Cremation

There is only one crematorium in Luxembourg. The address is:

Crematorium de Luxembourg

1 Allee des Chataigniers

L-1366 Luxembourg

Tel: 00352 43 16 01

Fax: 00352 43 16 23

If the deceased wears a pacemaker, this has to be removed before cremation.

The documents needed for a Cremation are :

- Death Certificate
- Permission for cremation signed by Next of Kin
- Marriage Certificate (if Next of kin is wife/husband). Birth certificate (if it is a child of the deceased)/relevant certificate showing relation and he/she is the Next of kin

Certificates in English will only need to be translated into French or German if the death occurs in a small town or village in Luxembourg where no one has a sufficient understanding of English. In that case the certificates may need to be translated by an officially certified translator.

Ashes can be given directly to next of kin or family member together with Certificate from Crematorium confirming that only Ashes are contained in casket for transfer to the UK. Funeral home can also arrange this.

If there is a Will requesting that the deceased wishes to be cremated, this will also be accepted if Next of kin is not present to sign the Request for Cremation form.

Ashes can also be dispersed in Luxembourg or placed in stone structures especially made for this purpose.

Organ donation

A person can express their intention to donate their organ(s) after death, without limitation of age, by carrying a donor card. Residents of Luxembourg can obtain a donor card, known as a *passeport de vie* from their doctor, local hospital, pharmacy or town hall (*Commune*). Donor cards are also available from the Health Office (*Direction de la Santé*). More information is available from *Direction de la Santé* Tel: 24 78 55 69 or by accessing the website of [Luxembourg Organ Donation](#) (in French). The person's organ donor card is not officially registered anywhere, therefore it is recommended to keep the card together with the holder's identity card or passport.

UK Coroners

When a body is repatriated to England or Wales, a coroner will hold an inquest only if the death was violent or unnatural, or if the death was sudden and the cause unknown. In some countries (including Luxembourg) the cause of death is never stated on the death certificate, and coroners do not generally have access to judicial files from other countries. Consequently coroners may order a post-mortem as part of the inquest.

Coroners can request copies of post-mortem and police reports from the Luxembourg authorities. However, these will only be provided once any judicial proceedings are completed. In some instances this can take many months.

In Scotland, the Scottish Executive is the responsible authority. However, they are not obliged to hold an inquest into cause of death.

Coroners in Northern Ireland are also not obliged to hold an inquest into cause of death. However, next of kin can apply for a judicial review if no inquest is held.

Release of Information

Access to information concerning the investigation into a death, including the autopsy and police reports, is restricted. The Luxembourg authorities will not provide this information directly to next of kin or to third parties. They will only release this information to the Consular Section for transmission to the UK Coroner. Requests for this information should be made through a legal representative. Our consular staff can provide lists of English speaking lawyers throughout Luxembourg. The release of any information can take many months, and the documents will be in German or French.

Legal Aid

British nationals without the available means to appoint legal representation can apply for legal aid in most European countries. The Legal Services Commission in London (tel: 020 7759 0000) is responsible for legal aid applications overseas. The Legal Services Commission currently forwards applications for legal aid to their counterparts in Luxembourg, where cases will be considered for their eligibility (based on Luxembourg's criteria).

Funeral Allowance

In the event of the death of a person insured by Luxembourg Social Security (or a stillborn child) it is possible to claim a small state benefit. This is to cover burial costs, the coffin, flowers, transportation, cremation or burial, obituary and Town Hall taxes and expenses. The benefit is reduced to 20 percent of the funeral allowance in the event of the death of a still born child and 50 percent of the allowance for children under six. These benefits will be paid directly to the funeral home, with any leftover money paid to survivors who lived with the deceased. The benefits are capped and reviewed on a yearly basis.

For information from the Ministry of Social Security (Ministère de la Sécurité Sociale) on the funeral allowance: [Click here](#) (in French)

Victim support

The Luxembourg police provide information on their website [to victims of crimes](#) and their relatives and guide them through some aspects of the investigation process.

Consular Death Registration

There is no obligation for the death overseas of a British national to be registered with the British Embassy. However, there are the advantages that a British form of death certificate is then available, and that a record of the death is afterwards held at the General Register Office in the UK.

To apply from within the UK, you should contact Nationality and Passports Section of Consular Directorate, Old Admiralty Building, London SW1A 2AF Tel: 020 7008 0186. If you are applying from Luxembourg, you should contact the nearest Consulate. For more detailed information about a Consular Death Registration please get in touch with our Consular Section or consult our website on the following link: [Register a Death](#)

Contact

Consular Directorate - Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Luxembourg Desk - Tel: 020 7008 0226 and 020 7008 0205

International Funeral Directors

Funeral Director		Address	Tel/Fax	Email/web
Funeral International	Care	221 Upper Richmond Road Putney London SW15 6SQ	Tel: 020 8788 5303 Fax: 020 8788 2525	Funeralcare.international@letsco-operate.com
Kenyon Transportation	Air	81 Westbourne Grove London W2 4UL	Tel: 020 7258 1130 Fax: 020 7243 3125	katuk@dial.pipex.com www.gnf24.dial.pipex.com
Phoenix International		13 The Broadway Gunnersbury Lane London W3 8HR	Tel: 020 8993 8767	
Rowland International	Brothers	299-305 Whitehorse Rd Croydon CR0 2HR	Tel: 020 8684 2324 Fax: 020 8684 8000	info@rowlandbrothersinternational.co.uk www.rowlandbrothersinternational.co.uk
National Association of Funeral Directors		618 Warwick Road Solihull B91 1AA	Tel: 0121 711 1343 Fax: 0121 711 1351	info@nafd.org.uk

Please note that the listing of the companies above does not represent FCO endorsement of their services.

Undertakers in Luxembourg

City	Address	Manager	Company	Telephone
Luxembourg-Hamm L-2328	21 rue des Peupliers	Mr Erasmy	Erasmy	+352 43 42 02 Fax: 352 42 002 82
Luxembourg	10 rue de la Boucherie	Mr Platz	Maison Platz	+352 222 32 48
Luxembourg L-1130	33 rue d'Anvers	Mr Walentiny-Sandt	Walentiny-Sandt C.	+352 48 88 86
Bettembourg L-3232	1 rue de l'Eau		BRANDENBURGER Paul SARL	+352 54 02 93
Diekirch L-9233	85 avenue de la Gare		BOUS Guy	+352 26 86 60 53/621 131 672
Dudelange L-3598	59 rue de Zoufftgen		RUHL-BARTHELS Jean	+352 52 07 07
Echternach L-6414	1 rue des Bénédictins		Goebel Jean & Fils	+352 72 82 15
Esch-sur-Alzette L-4344	32 rue St. Vincent		BRANDENBURGER Paul SARL	+352 54 02 93
Grevenmacher L-6730	19 Grand-Rue		Goebel Jean & Fils	+352 26 74 52 53

Mamer L-8211	5 route d'Arlon		Calmes Pompes Funébres	+352 37 01 61-1
Mersch L-7570	74 rue Nicolas Welter		Fred Serres	+352 32 98 80
Petange, L-4761	1C route de		Burg-Holcher SA	+352 23 65 00 91
Redange-sur-AttertL-8056	18 route de Niederpallen		Goergen Freres	+352 23 62 10 67
Rodange L-4810	4 r. de Clopp		Burg-Holcher SA	+35223 65 00 91
Vianden L-9420	33 rue de la Gare		Bassing-Houyoux Senc	+352 83 41 45
Wiltz L-9557	11 rue Michel Rodange		Bous Guy	+352 26 87 60 53/621 131 672

Every care has been taken compiling this list. However, neither Her Majesty's Government nor the British Embassy in Luxembourg can act as guarantor of the competence or probity of any particular company, nor can they be held responsible in any way for consequences arising from advice accepted or action initiated.

All the below companies can take calls in English.