

SOP for Transportation of Dead Bodies by Air



Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority

Government of Uttarakhand

Pilgrimage, tourism and adventure sports destinations located in the state of Uttarakhand attract persons in large numbers from across the country and abroad. Unfortunate incidences (accidents / disasters) sometimes result in death of these persons. Next of kin (NOK) of the deceased persons often want to transport the dead body to their native place. A number of formalities have however to be completed for the airline to accept the dead body for transportation.

The following checklist would facilitate smooth transport of dead bodies by air and avoid inconvenience to both NOK of the dead and the officials delivering the body:

1. Contact the NOK of the deceased and ensure that the person accompanying the dead body has documents mentioned below with regard to the dead person whose body is being transported:
 - (a) Inquest Report (Panchnama)
 - (b) Post Mortem Report
 - (c) Death Certificate
 - (d) Address of correspondence
 - (e) Identity proof having photograph
2. To be transported by air the dead body has to be embalmed (medical procedure delaying decay and decomposition).
3. Identify hospitals close to Airport providing embalming facility and get a Nodal Officer nominated in these for this.

4. In Dehradun embalming is carried out at Himalayan Hospital, Jolly Grant which is in the proximity of the Airport.
5. Nodal Officer at the identified hospital should be contacted in advance for getting the bodies embalmed.
6. Sub-divisional Magistrate having jurisdiction over the Airport should be nominated officially for coordinating with Airport authorities and making necessary arrangements for transportation of the dead body by air.
7. In case of Dehradun Sub-divisional Magistrate, Doiwala coordinates dispatch of dead body by air.
8. Airport Authority of India should be requested to nominate a Nodal Officer for this purpose at the Airport.
9. After embalming the Nodal Officer of hospital is to hand over the body to the concerned Sub-divisional Magistrate for further action.
10. Concerned Sub-divisional Magistrate should ensure that the person being handed over the dead body has proper authority letter from the Chairperson/DM of the concerned district.
11. Contact number of the concerned person carrying the dead body should be collected by the concerned Sub-divisional Magistrate and communicated to concerned District and State Emergency Operations Centre.
12. The Sub-divisional Magistrate should ensure that the documents mentioned below are ready and complete before boarding the dead body to the plane:
 - (a) Inquest Report (Panchnama)
 - (b) Post Mortem Report
 - (c) Death Certificate
 - (d) No objection letter from the person who has made the coffin mentioning that the wood used in the coffin is termite free and there is no leakage

- (e) Embalming Certificate
- (f) Photo identity of dead person
- (g) No objection letter from Police clearly mentioning that the coffin contains only the dead body and no explosives / hazardous material

13. Body is accepted for boarding only 2 hours before the scheduled departure of the flight.

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