

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 / illness) 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. The person accompanying the dead body should have the following documents with regard to the dead person whose body is being transported:
 - (a) Inquest Report (Panchnama)
 - (b) Death Certificate / Post Mortem Report
 - (c) Address of correspondence
 - (d) Identity proof having photograph
2. To be transported by air the dead body has to be embalmed (medical procedure delaying decay and decomposition).
3. Embalming is carried out at 06 hospitals in Uttarakhand that include (i) All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Rishikesh, (ii) Government Doon Medical Collage, Dehradun, (iii) Government Medical Collage, Haldwani, (iv) Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Government Institute of Medical Science and Research, Srinagar, (v) Swami Rama Himalayan

University, Doiwala, (vi) Shri Guru Ram Rai Institute of Medical and Health Sciences, Dehradun and (vii) Sridev Suman Subharati Medical Collage, Dehradun.

4. Nodal Officers have been nominated at these hospitals for facilitating embalming facility. Any change in the details of the Nodal Officers would be brought to the notice of Director General, Health and Family Welfare, Government of Uttarakhand. Details of the nominated Nodal Officers are as given below:

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| 1. | All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Rishikesh | Dr. Mukesh Singhala, Associate Professor | 9837691777 mukeshaiimsrishikesh@gmail.com |
| | | Dr. MS Ansari, Assistant Professor | 7500277776 msalahuddin.ansari12@gmail.com |
| 2. | Government Doon Medical Collage, Dehradun, | Dr. MK Pant | 9897470722 pant.mahendra@gmail.com |
| 3. | Government Medical Collage, Haldwani | Dr. Richa Niranjana, Associate Professor | 9758512594 niranjana richa@yahoo.co.in |
| 4. | Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Government Institute of Medical Science and Research, Srinagar | Dr. Anil Kumar Dwivedi, Assistant Professor | 7536873898 Dranildwivedi2009@gmail.com |
| 5. | Swami Rama Himalayan University, Doiwala | Patient Care Executive | 8194009605 0135-2471202 |
| 6. | Shri Guru Ram Rai Institute of Medical and Health Sciences, Dehradun | Dr. Suchit Kumar, Assistant Professor | 8791065465 Skumar1422@yahoo.com |
| 7. | Sridev Suman Subharati Medical Collage, Dehradun | Dr. Khursheed Raza, Assistant Professor | 9716147173 khursheedraza77@gmail.com |

5. The concerned district administration would officially nominate Sub-Divisional Magistrate / Circle Officer of Police having jurisdiction over the Airport for coordinating with Airport authorities and making necessary arrangements for transportation of the dead body by air.

6. Sub-divisional Magistrate / Circle Officer of Police having jurisdiction over the Airport or the Next of Kin (NOK) of the deceased person should contact the Nodal Officer of the identified hospital in advance for getting the bodies embalmed.
7. Terminal Manager of the Airport is the Nodal Officer of Airport Authority of India for facilitating transport of dead bodies by air. Terminal Manager at Jolly Grant airport can be contacted at 0135 – 2412052 while that at Pantanagar airport can be contacted at 05944 – 233685.
8. After embalming the Nodal Officer of the hospital is to hand over the body to the NOK of the dead person or to the officer / person designated for this purpose.
9. Concerned Nodal Officer of the hospital undertaking embalming should inform the Nodal Officer of Police so as to ensure presence of the concerned officials for fulfilling necessary formalities while handing over the body after embalming.
10. The person arranging coffin for transporting the dead body should ensure that he/she obtains a certificate from the party supplying the coffin that the wood used in the coffin is termite free and there is no leakage
11. The designated Circle Officer of Police should inspect the coffin at the time of sealing the same and issue a certificate declaring that the coffin contains dead body only and no hazardous material. This should also mention that the Police has no objection in transportation of the dead body.
12. Concerned Nodal Officer of the hospital undertaking embalming should ensure that the person being handed over the dead body has proper photo identification to establish his/her relationship with the deceased or has authority letter from the concerned district / state authority.
13. Details of the dead and the person carrying the dead body should be maintained by the concerned Sub-divisional Magistrate.

14. The person /NOK carrying the body should ensure that the documents mentioned below are ready and complete before boarding the dead body to the plane:

- (a) Inquest Report (Panchnama)
- (b) Death Certificate / Post Mortem Report
- (c) 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
- (d) Embalming Certificate
- (e) Photo identity of dead person
- (f) Letter / certificate from Police clearly mentioning that the coffin contains only the dead body and no explosives / hazardous material and the Police has no objection in transportation of the dead body.

15. Body is accepted for boarding only 2 hours before the scheduled departure of the flight as the airports at Jollygrant and Pantnagar do not have necessary refrigeration facilities in the baggage area.

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