

How the Repatriation Process Works

If you wish to repatriate your loved one overseas, we will initially require the original death certificate and the original passport of the deceased. These documents allow us to begin obtaining the necessary paperwork required for international transportation and to bring your loved one into our care.

Depending on the destination country, additional documentation may be required. In some cases, we may need to liaise directly with the relevant Embassy or Consulate to secure the permits and approvals necessary for repatriation.

Once all documentation is underway, we will carefully prepare your loved one for travel. This includes professional embalming and dressing. If you wish to provide clothing, we will respectfully dress your loved one accordingly; alternatively, a dignified gown will be supplied.

As the repatriation date approaches, we will keep you informed of all arrangements, including flight details and any additional requests, such as a service at a place of worship or a viewing in our Chapel of Rest. Prior to departure, we will require the full details of the consignee the funeral director or individual receiving your loved one in the destination country. It is important that they remain contactable throughout the process.

Please note that certain countries may require additional documentation. For example, repatriations to Nigeria often require a Waiver, which must be obtained personally by the family. We will be pleased to guide and support you through any such requirements. We may also need to work with the relevant Embassy or Consulate in London to obtain official stamps, authorisations, and supporting documentation before repatriation can proceed.

Bringing a Loved One Back to the UK

If a death occurs overseas and you wish for your loved one to be buried or cremated in the United Kingdom, we will provide guidance and support throughout the process.

If your loved one passed away while travelling, we strongly recommend checking whether they held travel insurance. Many travel insurance policies cover the cost of repatriation to the UK. In such cases, the insurance provider will typically coordinate arrangements with a local funeral director in the country where the death occurred, organise transportation, and appoint a UK funeral director to receive your loved one upon arrival.

Where there is no travel insurance, or if your loved one was residing abroad, arrangements will usually need to be made directly with a funeral director in the country concerned. We can act as the UK consignee, receiving your loved one at any London airport and bringing them into our care.

Once your loved one has arrived with us, we will begin the necessary procedures and documentation required for the funeral to take place in the UK. This may include liaising with the local Coroner and, where necessary, arranging for the translation of documents received from overseas authorities. Once all legal requirements have been completed, funeral arrangements can proceed in the usual way.

Our experienced team is available to offer guidance, reassurance, and practical support at every stage of the repatriation process.