

Guide for when your loved one dies in Spain



Hospital

Your loved one has died at the hospital or care facility

The medical staff will sign the medical certification. If the next of kin is not present, the hospital will contact them to inform of the death.

It is the responsibility of the next of kin to contact the call centre, who will contact the funeral director. Medical staff can help you contact the call centre.

The hospital will give the paperwork to the funeral director when they come to collect your loved one.

The funeral director will contact the next of kin, & arrange an appointment.



Chapel of Rest

"Tanatorio"

Your loved one is now at the chapel of rest, and you have an appointment with the funeral director.



Home

Your loved one has died at home

Call your GAP, O61, or the health professional currently involved in the present treatment.

GAP phone number:

GAP Opening hours:

A doctor will come out and certify death.

The doctor will leave paperwork and a number to ring the call centre. Make this call immediately.

The call centre will arrange for a funeral director to contact you by phone. The funeral director will arrange a time to collect your loved one. You can set the time, but discuss with the funeral director.

At your home, the funeral director will organise a date to visit their office to discuss your wishes.



Elsewhere

Your loved one has died elsewhere

Call 112 for the police & ambulance.

They will organise medical certification.

They will arrange for your loved one to be collected by the funeral director. Your contact details will be given to the funeral director.

The funeral director will contact you to arrange an appointment.

- You can often organise a pre-plan with your local funeral director.
- Ambulances do not normally have a doctor on board.
- When you visit the funeral director, you do not need proof of your relationship with the deceased
- If you have a funeral insurance plan, you must phone them immediately.



Discussing your wishes

At the appointment with the funeral director, you will discuss your wishes.

Typically, cremation or burial happens [24-72 hours](#) after death. Talk to your funeral director if you need more time. It is more expensive the longer you wait.

- If you wish to keep your loved one for longer than 4 days, they must be embalmed.
- Normally the body is kept at the chapel of rest. However the funeral director will respect your wish to take your loved one's body home, if possible, before the cremation or burial.

Cremation

Costs include:

- Urn & Coffin
- Cremation services
- Funeral
- Additional wishes

The funeral director will help you select an urn, choose a time for cremation, discuss options for a service, and help you organise it, at your request.

The funeral director will arrange a date for you to pick up your loved one's ashes. Alternatively, they can legally dispose of the ashes at your request.



Death Certificate

“Certificado literal de defunción”

The funeral director will give you 3-5 certificates, national or international, to present to official institutions (ie. banks).

Every death is registered in the civil register. If you need more certificates, you will need to go to the town hall (ajuntament) to request extra copies.

Burial

Costs include:

- Coffin
- Nicho preparation
- Nicho rent
- Funeral
- Additional wishes

The funeral director will organise a nicho (a niche in the wall of the local cemetery) with the local council. You will be allocated a nicho and pay rent. This is the only legal place you can be buried in Spain.

The funeral director will organise the coffin, service, and prepare the nicho.

Repatriation

The funeral director will contact the British Consulate to organise options for repatriation. Typically this should happen within 7-10 days.

If you need support during this difficult time, contact the following services:

British Benevolent Association of Girona
Age in Spain
The Costa Brava Hospice

britbengirona@gmail.com | +34 695 210 108
 www.ageinspain.org
 Info@costabravahospice.com

- The urn or coffin must conform with legal requirements & can only be purchased from the funeral director.
- You do not need a special urn to take out of country. The funeral director will give you documentation to go with the urn.
- If there is proof of no money for the cremation or burial, social services can help.
- Legally you cannot be buried at sea.