

What you need to think of after a death in your family

We on the Haines Volunteer Fire Department are saddened and sorry for the loss of your loved one. Hopefully this sheet of information will be able to guide you during the first few days when you will have to quickly make a lot of decisions. By now, the ambulance crew will be there and can review this information with you.

When we move the deceased, we will take him/her to the morgue which is in the back of the Public Safety Building which houses the Fire and Police Departments. Once there, you will have up to **72 hours** to make arrangements and have the deceased buried or sent out of town. Fire or Police Department personnel are willing to help you through this process. Please call the Fire Department 766-6441 or Police Dispatch 766-3430. It is best if we can work with one person - Executor, Power of Attorney or Personal Representative.

There are several forms that you may need to fill out or help the Fire Department or Doctor complete:

- **Vital Statistics Form** collects personal information for creating the Death Certificate. Everyone will need to complete this form. The Death Certificate (either completed by a Doctor or the Mortuary) is sent to the AK. Dept of Vital Statistics. You may request copies of the Death Certificate on-line or call 907-465-3391. It takes 5 business days to receive copies. NOTE: Order a lot of copies (10-20) as it is much cheaper to do so now, and you will need to provide a copy for just about everything you do to close the estate.
- **Cremation Authorization Form** only if the deceased will be cremated.
- **Embalming Authorization Form** only if the deceased is crossing the state line. Alaska doesn't require embalming.
- **Burial Transit Permit** only if the deceased will be transported out of Haines.
- **Burial Permit at Jones Point** only if the deceased will be buried locally.

You have several options for burial or cremation.

1. Local Burial, according to HB Code, must be in a local cemetery.

- a. **Burial Plots:** Plots cost \$350 and are purchased from the Borough Clerk's Office (766-6400). Burial costs are more if done after hours or on a weekend or holiday. Call, or have Borough staff contact, cemetery caretakers Roc & Diann Ahrens (766-2230) to choose a plot and Haines Public Works (766-3168) for preparing the burial site.
- b. **Caskets:** You may make or purchase a casket. Haines Home Building Supply (766-2595), the only local distributor, carries several styles in stock ranging from approx. \$1000-\$2600. Make arrangements with the Fire Department (766-6441) or Police Dispatch (766-6430) for delivery to the morgue.
- c. **Body Preparation:** You may prepare your loved one for burial or have the Fire Department call local volunteers who provide this service for free: Cindy Jones (CJ) (766-2018), Vince Hansen (766-3812), Tara Bicknell (303-tara). If volunteers prepare the body; the casket, burial clothing, and anything you want put in the casket needs to be delivered to the firehall prior to the body preparation. Please inform staff if you would like an open or closed casket.
- d. **Viewing at the morgue:** Please make arrangements with the Fire Department or Police Dispatch prior to arrival.
- e. **Funeral and Burial:** You may provide casket transport to funeral services and/or gravesite yourselves, OR the Fire Department will provide free transportation in Medic 2. You will need

to make arrangements with us prior to transport and provide pallbearers at all steps from the morgue to the gravesite. (The HVFD can also provide information about planning funerals.)

2. Burial Elsewhere

- a. Burying the deceased outside of Haines usually involves the body being sent to or through Juneau. Alaska Seaplanes (766-3800 or 907-789-3331 in Juneau) charges approx. \$775 to charter (you must charter) a 207 to Juneau. This plane will hold the deceased on a backboard or in a small casket and accommodate 3 passengers. A caravan (approx. \$1830) will hold a large casket and 5 passengers. Call Seaplanes to make arrangements and pay for the flight then notify the Fire Department of arrangements.
- b. If the person is transported to Anchorage, the lower 48, etc., then the costs will of course be higher. Note: You can transport the deceased in a vehicle via the ferry. It is not imperative that the body be flown to Juneau. However, you will need to take all the paperwork.
- c. If you want to take the deceased out of the State of Alaska, the person will first need to be embalmed. Embalming can be done at the Alaska Mortuary and Crematorium (AMC) 3839 Riverside Dr. in Juneau (907-789-0611) and costs approximately \$2400 from the Juneau airport back to the Juneau airport. Caskets add to the cost. Contact AMC directly for exact costs.
- d. HVFD can help make transport arrangements w/ Alaska Seaplanes, or whoever is currently providing air service, transport the body to the airport, and inform AMC of arrival time.
- e. You will need to work with Alaska Mortuary and Crematorium for transport from Juneau to another final destination.
- f. Paperwork to accompany the body (HVFD will see to this):
 - Vital Statistics Form
 - Burial Transit Permit
 - Embalming Form if body is crossing the state line.

3. Cremation

- a. This also involves being sent to Juneau. Again, either charter a flight with Alaska Seaplanes or, with the proper paperwork, the person can be transported in a private vehicle aboard the ferry.
- b. Cremation occurs at Alaska Mortuary and Crematorium 789-0611 and costs about \$2800 (Includes pickup at airport and the cost of sending remains back in a container. Urns are available for purchase).
- c. HVFD can help make transport arrangements w/ Alaska Seaplanes, or whoever is currently providing air service, transport the body to the airport and inform AMC of arrival time and by which airlines.
- d. Paperwork to accompany the body (again HVFD will see to this):
 - Vital Statistics Form
 - Burial Transport Permit
 - Cremation Authorization Form
 - Embalming Form if body is crossing the state line prior to cremation.

Again, we are so sorry for your loss. Do not hesitate to call HVFD (907-766-6441), Police Dispatch (907-766-6430) or the Haines Borough office (907-766-6400) if you have any questions.