

10. So why is it often more time and cost effective to ship to us in the New York area rather than direct from Los Angeles? We have tried every airline for transporting a body to India. AI from EWR (Newark) departs every afternoon direct to Mumbai. Mumbai is the hub for distribution to every other city using the AI network. Every other carrier must transfer the body to the AI network anyway, unless they fly into the specific city that is the final destination. AI is by far the least expensive as well as most direct. We have a wonderful relationship with AI.

11. Once all the papers to clear the Consulate have been obtained, they must be gotten TO a consulate and returned. If the body is not within a few hours of a Consulate and papers can be driven and returned the same day, then flying them with the body to us is faster. It is the cooperation of the New York Consulate that makes this possible. In every case we determine the fastest way to clear the papers by going either local or through New York. Domestic flights are inexpensive and do not require the purchase of a special casket or container. By way of example: Last week we were hired by an international insurance administrating company to repatriate a body from Washington state. They hire us frequently as do many others. Funeral directors are legally prohibited from adding money to a "third party" bill. We can only pass those charges we incur and pay for a family.

12. COST: Hindu Funerals of America and The Hindu Funeral Home put our charges on our websites. We want the consumer to know what we charge. Below is a typical billing for repatriation:

FROM ANY STATE OTHER THAN NY, NJ AND PA

International Air Fare: \$1,900. (determined by kilo, therefore is an estimate until signed into air cargo)
Domestic Air Fare: 595. (dependent of where the flight originates, can be a little higher or lower)
Our agent: 900. (varies depending on whether additional services like visiting wanted)
Cash Disbursements we pay to others = \$ 3,395
Our charges: 2,495 (includes international shipping container)
Total \$ 5,890

FROM NY OR PA REQUIRING GROUND TRANSPORT

International Air Fare: \$1,900
Transport by car: 200 (one dollar a mile round trip)
Our charges: 2,495
Total \$ 4,595

FROM ANYWHERE IN NEW JERSEY

International Air Fare: \$1,900
Our charges: 2,495
Total \$4,395

(There can be additional charges such as courier fees, copies of the death certificate, visiting etc.)

Conclusion: We routinely have the repatriation on the plane direct to Mumbai from anywhere in the country in 3 to 5 business days from the day the death certificate is signed. We routinely have the repatriation on the airplane from the NY Metropolitan area within 1 or 2 business days once the death certificate has been signed.

The steps: 1. obtain legal authorization to proceed and gather necessary information 2. obtain the signed death certificate 3. obtain release of the body and prepare for international travel 4. Process papers locally 4. Clear papers with Consulate 5. Arrange flight 6. Copy cleared documents to India at least 24 hours before consigning to airlines 7. Deliver to airport at least 5 hours prior to flight time clear security and consign to airline.