

# WHEN SOMEONE DIES IN MEXICO

A Practical Emergency Guide for Expats and Their Families  
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***The greatest gift you can leave your loved ones is not money or property, it is clarity.***

When a person dies in Mexico, family members often face language barriers, legal requirements, unfamiliar government offices, funeral decisions, property concerns, and communication with agencies in multiple countries. Advanced planning can dramatically reduce stress, delays, confusion and unnecessary expense.

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**BEFORE A DEATH OCCURS** - Create a "Peace of Mind" File. Keep copies of:

- Birth Certificate
  - Passport
  - Mexican Residency Documents
  - Marriage Certificate (if applicable)
  - Vehicle Titles or Registrations
  - Property Documents
  - Insurance Policies
  - List of Medications
  - Emergency Contacts
  - Executor Information
  - Beneficiary Information
  - Funeral Preferences
  - Account Information
  - Important Passwords (stored securely)
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## **IMPORTANT DECISIONS TO MAKE NOW**

- Who is my Executor?
  - Who is my Emergency Contact?
  - Who will care for my pets?
  - Do I want cremation or burial?
  - Do I want my remains transported to another country?
  - Where are my important documents stored?
  - Who knows my wishes?
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**IF YOU LIVE ALONE** - Create a regular check-in system. Examples include:

- Daily text buddy
- Neighbor check-in
- Family member call schedule
- Monthly wellness contact

Someone should know if you stop responding.

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## **MOST COMMON MISTAKES**

- Family members don't know the plan.
- Important documents cannot be located.
- No one knows who to call.
- Beneficiaries refuse or are unable to travel.
- Passwords and account information are inaccessible.
- Funeral wishes were never discussed.

**Remember:** Do not assume your children or relatives will automatically know what to do. Tell them. Write it down. Review it yearly.

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## **EMERGENCY ACTION CHECKLIST**

### IMMEDIATE STEPS

**STEP 1** - Notify the designated conservator, executor, or emergency contact immediately.

**STEP 2** - Contact local authorities. If the death occurred at home or outside a medical facility, police and medical authorities will typically need to be notified.

**STEP 3** - Secure the residence.

Protect:

- Keys
- Vehicles
- Documents
- Valuables
- Pets

**STEP 4** - Notify family members and beneficiaries.

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**FUNERAL AND FINAL ARRANGEMENTS** - Determine the deceased's wishes:

- Cremation
- Burial in Mexico
- Transportation of remains
- Memorial service

Make funeral home arrangements as soon as possible.

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## **REQUIRED DOCUMENTS**

- Medical Death Certificate
  - Official Mexican Death Certificate
  - Additional certified copies - Order multiple copies. Many organizations will require original death certificates.
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## **FOR U.S. CITIZENS**

A Consular Report of Death of a U.S. Citizen Abroad (CRODA) will need to be filed.

Documents often required include:

- Death Certificate
  - Birth Certificate
  - Passport
  - Marriage Certificate (if applicable)
  - Next of Kin Identification
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**WHAT TO ADDRESS AFTER IMMEDIATE MATTERS ARE HANDLED**

- Bank Accounts
  - Utilities
  - HOA Accounts
  - Insurance Claims
  - Vehicle Transfers
  - Property Issues
  - Pet Placement
  - Estate Administration
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**PERSONAL NOTES**

Executor:

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Emergency Contact:

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Beneficiary:

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Conservator:

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Funeral Preference:

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Location of Important Documents:

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Additional Instructions:

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***The goal is simple:***  
*Leave your loved ones with a clear path forward, not a mystery to solve.*