

April 17, 2024

**Los Angeles County
Board of Supervisors**

Hilda L. Solis
First District

Holly J. Mitchell
Second District

Lindsey P. Horvath
Third District

Janice K. Hahn
Fourth District

Kathryn Barger
Fifth District

TO: Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath, Chair
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell
Supervisor Janice K. Hahn
Supervisor Kathryn Barger

FROM: Christina R. Ghaly, M.D. 
Director

SUBJECT: **LOS ANGELES COUNTY OFFICE OF DECEDENT AFFAIRS:
CREMATION FEES (REPORT REQUEST FROM THE
MARCH 19, 2024, MEETING)**

Christina R. Ghaly, M.D.
Director

Hal F. Yee, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.
Chief Deputy Director, Clinical Affairs

Nina J. Park, M.D.
Chief Deputy Director, Population Health

Elizabeth M. Jacobi, J.D.
Administrative Deputy

Overview of the Los Angeles County (LA County) Office of Decedent Affairs (ODA)

ODA, which is a part of the LA County Department of Health Services, is responsible for managing the morgue services at LA General Medical Center for its patients. ODA also coordinates the management and disposition of indigent and unclaimed dead for LA County, along with managing the LA County Crematorium and Cemetery. If a relative/guardian is searching for a deceased relative in the possession of ODA, they may contact us by phone at (323) 409-7161.

The cremation fee is \$352, (and \$466 if transportation is required). The fees are collected at the release of the decedents' remains/ashes.

ODA Waivers

ODA does not have the authority to pardon cremation fees and cannot provide waivers for those expressing economic hardship. The Board of Supervisors has the sole authority to waive fees. If a deceased individual is identified, and their relative/guardian expresses economic hardship in retrieving the remains, ODA cremates the deceased and their remains are held for two years.

It is important to note, that requests related to economic hardship assistance is infrequent. ODA receives on average one request per year for financial assistance.

The amount recovered in cremation fees in Fiscal Year 2022-23 was \$149,136.

If you have any questions, you may contact me or your staff may contact Edgar Solis, LA General Medical Center's Chief Operating Officer by email at esolis@dhs.lacounty.gov.

CRG: es

c: Chief Executive Office
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