

CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (DEH)



GUIDELINES FOR

GUIDELINES FOR BURIAL AT SEA

The Department of Environmental Health (DEH) has established the following guidelines for the burial of bodies at sea. These guidelines are subject to revision without notification as it pertains to the interest of the DEH. Please be advised and adhere to the following:

- A. A copy of the Death Certificate and Burial Order, stating the nature of death, must be submitted to the DEH prior to its granting of approval for burial at sea.
- B. The body will be prepared by a licensed mortician in a condition necessary for burial at sea.
- C. The casket must be perforated along the length and width of its exterior, with a minimum of twenty-four (24) 7/8 inch diameter (minimum size) holes, penetrating into the casket's cavity, thereby allowing its interior to be rapidly filled with water once it has been lowered into the sea. ***Please note that the number of holes must be greater at the foot and head of the casket than along its length.***
- D. Additional ballast weight of no less than seventy-five pounds (75 lbs.) will be added to the interior of the casket, at the foot of the body.
- E. The casket's lid must be locked and its entire exterior bound with suitable material that will prevent the lid from opening during its descent to the sea floor or damage caused by impact with rock formations. The binding material will be of a type that will also not deteriorate within a short period of time, namely one to two years.
- F. The burial ceremony will take place outside the traditional fishing grounds and the territorial waters of the Cayman Islands, namely no closer than twelve miles (12 mi.) from the shoreline of the Islands and in a depth not less than one thousand feet (1000 ft.).

Revised May 2013