

January 2026: Changes and additions highlighted in blue

State:	Nevada
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Inquiry 1: How long can I keep the body at home after death and under what conditions?

Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 451.020

1. Except in cases of dissection provided for in NRS 451.010, and where a dead body shall rightfully be carried through or removed from the State for the purpose of burial elsewhere, every dead body of a human being lying within this state, and the remains of any dissected body after dissection, shall be decently buried or cremated within a reasonable time after death.

Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 440.540

1. Except as provided in subsection 2, the body of any person whose death occurs in this state shall not be interred, deposited in a vault or tomb, cremated or otherwise disposed of, removed from or into any registration district, or be held temporarily pending a further disposition more than 72 hours after death, until a permit for burial or removal or other disposition thereof has been properly issued by the local health officer of the registration district in which the death occurred.
2. If the person who is to certify the cause of death consents, a body may be moved from the place of death into another registration district to be prepared for final disposition.

Inquiry 2: Does my state require the body to be embalmed? Refrigerated?

Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 451.065

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsections 2 and 3, no crematory, funeral home, cemetery or other place that accepts human remains for disposition may require the remains to be embalmed or otherwise prepared before their disposition by cremation, interment or otherwise, or before their removal from or into any registration district.
2. The State Board of Health may require embalming or other preparations if necessary to protect the public.
3. If embalming is not required by the State Board of Health pursuant to subsection 2, the Nevada Funeral and Cemetery Services Board may authorize the embalming of a body if it determines that it is necessary to preserve the body and the crematory, funeral home, cemetery or other place that accepts human remains for disposition:
 - (a) Has held the body for at least 72 hours;
 - (b) Is unable to notify a member of the family or other authorized person to obtain approval to embalm the body; and
 - (c) Has no reason to believe that the family or other authorized person does not wish to have the body embalmed.

Inquiry 3: What methods of disposition are legal in my state?

Nevada law mentions burial, entombment, cremation, alkaline hydrolysis, natural organic reduction, donation to medical science, or removal from the state.

Inquiry 4: Are there any circumstances under which I would be required to wait before final disposition?

There are no statutes or regulations that address this question.

Inquiry 5: What do I need to do to get a death certificate?

Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 440.450.

The funeral director or person acting as undertaker is responsible for obtaining and filing the certificate of death with the local health officer, or his or her deputy, in the registration district in which the death occurred, and for securing a burial or removal permit prior to any disposition of the body.

Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 440.370

The statement of facts relating to the disposition of the body must be signed by the funeral director or person acting as undertaker or by an authorized representative of the crematory if the body is cremated.

Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 440.490

The funeral director or person acting as undertaker shall present the completed certificate of death to the local registrar within 72 hours after the occurrence or discovery of the death. If a case is referred to the coroner, he or she shall present a completed certificate to the local registrar upon disposition of the investigation.

Inquiry 6: What do I need to do to get a burial-transit permit? Is there a wait period before I can receive a burial-transit permit?

Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 440.500.

1. Except as provided in subsections 2 and 3, if a certificate of death is properly executed and complete, the local health officer shall then issue a burial or removal permit to the funeral director. The permit must indicate the name of the cemetery, mausoleum, columbarium or other place of burial where the human remains will be interred, inurned or buried.
2. In case the death occurred from some disease that is held by the Board to be infectious, contagious, or communicable and dangerous to the public health, no permit for the removal or other disposition of the body may be granted by the local health officer except under such conditions as may be prescribed by the Board.
3. The Board may by regulation provide for the issuance of the burial transit permit prior to the filing of the completed death certificate if that requirement would result in undue hardship.

Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 440.510.

If the interment or other disposition of the body is to be made within the State, the wording of the burial permit may be limited to a statement by the local health officer and over his or her signature that a satisfactory certificate of death

1. The following persons, in the following order of priority, may order the burial or cremation of human remains of a deceased person:

(a) A person designated as the person with authority to order the burial or cremation of the human remains of the decedent in a legally valid document or in an affidavit executed in accordance with subsection 9;

(b) If the decedent was, at the time of death, on active duty as a member of the Armed Forces of the United States, a reserve component thereof or the National Guard, a person designated by the decedent in the United States Department of Defense Record of Emergency Data, DD Form 93, or its successor form, as the person authorized to direct disposition of the human remains of the decedent;

(c) The spouse of the decedent;

(d) An adult son or daughter of the decedent;

(e) Either parent of the decedent;

(f) An adult brother or sister of the decedent;

(g) A grandparent of the decedent;

(h) A guardian of the person of the decedent at the time of death; and

(i) A person who meets the requirements of subsection 2.

2. Any other person may order the burial or cremation of the human remains of the decedent if the person:

(a) Is at least 18 years of age; and

(b) Executes an affidavit affirming:

(1) That he or she knew the decedent;

(2) The length of time that he or she knew the decedent;

(3) That he or she does not know the whereabouts of any of the persons specified in paragraphs (a) to (h), inclusive, of subsection 1; and

(4) That he or she willingly accepts legal and financial responsibility for the burial or cremation of the human remains of the decedent.