

Make sure you have a relationship with a doctor

Most doctors in San Miguel de Allende NOT sign a Mexican Certificate of Death if the deceased is not known to them, as this will risk their professional reputation. In cases of violent or accidental death, the victim has to be autopsied by law by a coroner. But if a person died in their sleep (as an example) and has no local doctor, the case becomes much more complicated. And if there is no known “next of kin” it becomes even more complicated.

This is true whether or not you are an Associate of the 24 Hour Association or not.

So that is why we have added as of March, 2009 in the Application form for the 24 Hour Association a space to add a local doctor’s name and phone number. Our information is that without a signed death certificate stating the cause of death the deceased can not be cremated or buried without a lot of red tape and would stay in the morgue for up to three months before being buried in a common grave.

Suggestion to Associates of the 24 Hour Association: on your two laminated cards (one on the refrigerator and one in your purse and wallet,) add a sticker that has your doctor’s name and phone number.

To repeat: a Certificado de Defunción (Certificate of Death) form prepared by Mexican Health authorities must be issued by a doctor, preferably by the treating doctor. Some local doctors here in San Miguel may not sign the Certificate of Death unless they have treated you and know your history. (If the treating doctor is not available, a doctor can issue the certificate with assistance of a relative who can provide information about the deceased’s medical history.)

Avoid this situation! Go see a local doctor and put the doctor’s name and phone number on your Application Form. For Associates joining after March 2, 2009, the Application Form has added a space for this information on the bottom of page 1.

“Doctor, I do not know if I can trust you.”

