

IFSA in Japan is an organization of funeral service providers. In accordance with guidance from experts in fields such as medicine and law, IFSA in Japan has devised voluntary standards on embalming in order to perform embalming properly and to educate the public about the practice. IFSA in Japan oversees funeral service providers that perform embalming in accordance with those standards.

IFSA in Japan was founded in 1993 and reorganized into its current form in 2009. Embalming is a skilled practice of treating remains that is performed around the world, allowing the bereaved more time to safely say a final farewell.



International Funeral Science Association in Japan

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For a final farewell in a natural form
EMBALMING



When saying a final farewell to a loved one, we all want to take with us “memories of cherished interactions, conversations, and events.”

But making that wish a reality is difficult since the bereaved have little time to pay their last respects.

Rushed by funeral planning, the bereaved must cremate their loved one.

The remains of the deceased is not respected since those remains will start to decompose.

A prompt funeral is also recommended for public health reasons.

But what if the remains of the deceased could be safely preserved with respect?

This would allow us more time to say our final farewells and preserve the memories of our loved one.

Embalming is a way to accomplish just that.



Benefits of embalming

Preservation, Preventing infection, Restoring a natural appearance, Shipment overseas, and Coping with the aftermath of a disaster

Preservation

Embalming allows the bereaved more time to say their final farewell.

When remains are embalmed, a preservative is infused into the body's blood vessels. This allows remains to be safely and hygienically preserved for about 2 weeks. Embalming gives the family of the deceased greater latitude since it gives the bereaved more time to plan a funeral service and it allows relatives who live far away time to arrive and attend the service.



Preventing infection

Embalming allows the bereaved a chance to safely say their final farewell without being concerned about infection.

During embalming, remains are disinfected and sterilized. Once embalmed, even the remains of individuals with an infection or transmissible disease are safe from a public health perspective. Children or individuals in poor health can safely touch the face and body of the deceased and say their final farewells.



Restoring a natural appearance

Embalming restores the natural appearance of the deceased.

Many families are faced with saying farewell to a loved one in a deplorable state, such as a loved one who was ravaged by illness or disfigured by an accident. Photographs of the deceased prior to death are borrowed from the family and used to restore the natural appearance of the deceased.



Shipment overseas

Embalming is suitable for air shipment of remains overseas.

When a foreigner passes away in Japan, government agencies and airlines of the foreigner's home country typically require that remains be embalmed prior to shipment by air.



Coping with the aftermath of a disaster

Embalming helps in the aftermath of a large-scale natural disaster.

When a large earthquake or other disaster tragically results in a number of victims, remains must be preserved for public health and safety until a victim's identity can be confirmed. Remains must be preserved until funeral services are held.

In response to the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake and the Great East Japan Earthquake, IFSA in Japan dispatched embalmers as volunteers to facilitate the preservation of remains.



Note

Embalming is performed when, in principle, (1) an individual has requested to be embalmed in his or her own handwriting or (2) the family (a first or second-degree relative) has requested that a loved one be embalmed. If, however, other members of the family (first or second-degree relatives) do not wish the loved one to be embalmed, embalming will not be performed.