

Article published in The Camposol District Journal.2008

Dear Editor

Recently two dear friends of ours died here, and on behalf of both families I would like to commend the professionalism of TONY SMITH, The English Funeral Director who handled all the funeral arrangements for both funerals.

Irrespective of whether or not you have funeral insurance cover in the first few days even hours after a death we need someone to deal with all the formalities as the whole procedure is very different to England. Within 1hr of one death at Cartagena hospital at 5am on a Sunday morning the hospital wanted to know there and then which Tanatorio the deceased was to be taken. Luckily we had no difficulty contacting Tony Smith who's on call 24hrs 7 days, and he quickly notified our local Tanatorio and formally registered the death which by law here has to be done within 24hrs in Spain.

I feel I should mention the problem faced with one funeral insurance company. The policy was taken out and paid up a few years ago when our friends became residents on Camposol. There were no changes to their address however when the company was contacted at the time of death, they were instructing the deceased be taken to Orihuela Tanatorio. This caused tremendous upset but thankfully after engaging Tony he was finally able to sort this out. He was also able to get the funeral delayed by a couple of days to allow time for relatives to come from England as funeral services here are normally conducted within 48hrs

All part of his excellent service for a fix fee of €395 Tony also arranges: - to dress the deceased (if you wish to view an open coffin), book appointments and accompany family wishing to visit the deceased prior to the funeral, arranges the service in English giving you your choice of hymns, prayers and music and produces a very professional personal service booklet with photographs. He will also order flowers and pre-book catering if you wish. Finally, with cremation he collects the ashes with a certificate for transportation, and after a couple of weeks brings you the death certificates. He certainly has the most professional approach with sincerity and respect and we can't thank him enough for his attention to detail.