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1/3/2022

Natural death

of a Belgian, married to a Thai partner, registered in the Belgian embassy

THAI:

<https://www.thailand-info.be/NATUURLIJKTHAI.pdf>

NEDERLANDS

<https://www.thailand-info.be/NATUURLIJKOVERLIJDEN.pdf>

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Voor de VLAAMSE CLUB PATTAYA

Important

This file is about:

- . the death of a Belgian,
- . he/she is married to a Thai partner,
- . he/she is registered in the Belgian embassy,
- . he/she died naturally (so no suspicious death).
 - a. in a hospital.
 - b. at home.

This file is not intended for:

- . a Belgian, married to a Thai partner but not registered in the Belgian embassy.
- . a Belgian who lives with a Thai partner, but they are not married.
- . a Belgian who is only married in a temple, but not in an amhur.
- . a Belgian with a suspicious death.

In these cases, the procedure is different.

This file has been compiled on the basis of:

- . The 'death file' of the Flemish club.
- . Information obtained from the Belgian embassy (Feb 2022).
- . Information obtained from Bangkok Hospital in Pattaya (Feb 2022).

The content of this file has been checked by the Belgian embassy and suggested adjustments have been made.

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1. Some tips

1.1. Passport

1.1.1. Make sure that your Thai partner always knows very well where you keep your Belgian passport.

1.1.2. Make sure that you always have 5 copies of the first page of your Belgian passport at home and that your partner knows where they are.

If your passport is renewed, remove the copies of the old passport and replace them with copies of the new one.

1.1.3. Also make 5 copies of a paper with the following text:

- . Name: (name of the Belgian as stated on the passport).
- . Name in Thai (name in Thai as it appears on the marriage papers the Thai state).
- . Date of birth: day/month/year.
- . Passport number.
- . National number:
- . Married to: (name of Thai partner).
- . Mobile no. of the Thai partner.
- . Email from the Thai partner.

- . Belgian Embassy
16^{de} verdieping - Sathorn Square - 98 North Sathorn Road
Silom Sub-District, Bangrak District
10500 Bangkok
Thailand
Phone: [021081800](tel:021081800)
Phone (night or weekend only in case of dead): [0818339987](tel:0818339987)
Email: consular.bangkok@diplobel.fed.be

1.2. Bank accounts in Thailand

1.2.1. If you realize that the end of your life is near, and your surviving partner is your heir, you will save your Thai partner a lot of misery after your death when you transfer the money that is in your name or in the name of you and your partner in a Thai bank account(s) to a Thai bank account in the name of your partner.

1.2.2. If you are still fully conscious in the hospital (or at home in your bed), but the doctor has given up all hope of recovery, and you can no longer go to the bank branch, your partner can ask the manager of the bank to come to the hospital (or your home), with the necessary documents which you can then sign, so that the money from you or from the joint accounts can be transferred to a Thai account in the name of your partner.

1.2.3. After your death, your partner will have to pay a lot of costs.

The married partner cannot immediately dispose of the money that is in a Thai bank account in the name of the deceased Belgian, or in a joint account. This requires a court decision and this can take 3 months.
(Hence the importance of point 1.2.1.)

1.3. Bank accounts in Belgium

1.3.1. If you realize that your end is near, you will save your married Thai partner a lot of misery after your death, when you transfer the money in your name in a Belgian account to your account in Thailand.

For small amounts it is possible with Wise. For large amounts it is considerably cheaper from a Belgian bank account to a Thai bank account.

If you deposit from a Belgian bank to a Thai bank account, you can get proof from the Thai bank that the money comes from a Belgian account in your name.
(You will not receive this proof if the deposit is made via Wise).

Especially when depositing large amounts via Wise, it can be regarded as 'suspicious' transactions.

1.3.2. After that, you can transfer that money to an account in the name of your Thai partner (see 1.2.1.).

1.4. Living will

1.4.1. There is no euthanasia in Thailand, as we know in Belgium.

1.4.2. In Thailand, hospitals are legally obliged to keep patients alive for as long as possible, and this via all kinds of methods such as artificial respiration ... even if the patient's situation is hopeless and he is unconscious (coma).

As a result, the remaining partner may be faced with very high hospital costs after death of her partner.

1.4.3. In Thailand there is the document 'Living will'.

You can complete this document at any time, provided you are fully conscious.

It states that, if your situation is hopeless, and you are in a coma, you do not want your life to be prolonged unnecessarily.

1.4.4. In Bangkok Hospital, the 'Living will' documents are available in Dutch, English and Thai.

Capturing the 'living will' is free. It is basically renewed every five years.
Contact in Bangkok Hospital-Pattaya:

1.5. Cremation

1.5.1 In Thailand, the body of a deceased person can be...

a. ... cremated in a temple.

(This is the most common in Thailand.)

b. ... buried.

(This is less common and more expensive.)

c. ... transferred to the country of birth.

(This rarely happens and is very expensive and complex.)

1.5.2. During your life, agree with your partner whether you prefer a, b, or c and, if necessary have it noted in your 'Testament' or 'Last Will'.

1.5.3. If, like most, you prefer to be cremated, it can be helpful to discuss with your partner during your lifetime which temple it will be in.

Visit the temple together and write down:

. Name of the temple:

. Address of the temple:

. Phone of the temple:

1.5.4. Costs.

A cremation in a temple is not free.

If you have visited the temple with your partner, also inquire about the approximate costs that the temple will charge, so that your partner is not faced with any surprises.

(Read also point 1.2.1. of this file regarding bank accounts).

2. Natural death in a hospital

2.1. The morgue / mortuary

- 2.1.1. When a Belgian has a natural death in a hospital, the dead body is transferred to the mortuary of the hospital.
- 2.1.2. Some small private hospitals do not have their own morgue. The body of the deceased will then be transferred to the morgue of a state hospital.
(*Bangkok Hospital in Pattaya has its own morgue*).
- 2.1.3. It is important that the partner asks in which morgue the body of the deceased is stored. That of the hospital where he died or in another mortuary (ask for name and address).
- 2.1.4. The price charged for the morgue is either a fixed price, regardless of whether the body of the deceased will be there for 1 day or several days. It can also be, a daily price, which is usually 600 to 800 baht/day.
- 2.1.5. Please note that most hospitals will ask the surviving spouse to pay all outstanding hospital and mortuary charges before the deceased's body is allowed to leave the morgue.
(*Hence the importance of point 1.2.1*)

2.2. The 'Doctor's death certificate' (Overlijdensattest)

- 2.2.1. If the Belgian has died, the partner must hand over to the hospital as soon as possible:
- . a copy of the front page of the passport (see 1.1.2).
 - . a copy of the document that was ever made on which, among other things, the name of the Belgian is also correctly written in Thai (see 1.1.3).).
- 2.2.2. A 'Doctor's death certificate' is made by the doctor of the hospital.
- This document is drawn up in Thai. That is why it is important that the name of the Belgian is correctly written in Thai.
- The cause of death is also noted on this Doctor's death certificate.
- 2.2.3. It is important that the remaining partner in the hospital immediately requests an extra copy of the certificate. The partner will need this later.
- 2.2.4. The Belgian embassy wants the partner to mail as soon as possible:
- (1) a copy (PDF) of the Doctor's death certificate;
 - (2) a copy of the passport of the deceased Belgian;
 - (3) a copy of the partner's ID to:
to: consular.bangkok@diplobel.fed.be .

For example, this can be done this way:

Dear,

My name is:

I am sending you this email to inform you that my husband:

Holder of passport number: died in hospital:

Date:

His national number is:

In an attachment I send you a PDF with the Doctor's death certificate, a copy of my passport and a copy of my husband's passport.

Please send a 'Vervoersdocument' (Transport document) to me.

My email address is:

My phone number is:

Thanks in advance,

2.2.5. This 'Doctor's death certificate' must also be delivered by the partner to the City Hall or Amphur where the hospital is located.
(read first 2.4.1)

2.3. The Embassy's 'Letter of Power' (Volmachtendocument)

2.3.1. The marriage partner has e-mailed the 'Doctor's death certificate' that she/he received in the hospital to the Belgian embassy as soon as possible. (see 2.2.4.)

2.3.2. As soon as the marriage partner has emailed the 'Doctor's death certificate' to the embassy, she/he will contact the embassy by telephone to report that the certificate has been sent.

During opening hours you can do this via the number: [021081800](tel:021081800)

During closing hours or weekend via the special number: [0818339987](tel:0818339987)

2.3.3. The embassy will then mail a 'Letter of Power' (Volmachtenbrief) to the spouse.

This letter is absolutely necessary in order to be allowed to transport the body of the deceased partner from the morgue to the temple.

2.4. The 'Civil dead registry certificate' (Overlijdensakte)

2.4.1. The spouse must go to City Hall with:

- . 'Doctor's death certificate' received in the hospital (see 2.2.2.);
- . the 'Letter of Power' received by email from the embassy (see 2.3.3.)
- . the original passport of the deceased Belgian (see 1.1.1.);
- . copy of the passport of the deceased; (see 1,1,2,)
- . the document that was ever made on which, among other things, the name of the deceased is correctly noted in Thai (see 1.1.3.).

2.4.2. The official 'Civil dead registry certificate' is then made in the City Hall of the municipality where the hospital is located, after the deceased's partner has delivered the above items (see 2.4.1.).

2.4.3. Important:

The partner must also request four copies of the death certificate from the City Hall of Amphur, as she/he will need them later.

2.4.4. The partner should also check very carefully that the name of the deceased is correctly written on the Civil death registry certificate.

2.4.5. Request in the City Hall the original passport back.

2.4.6. Important:

the official 'Civil dead registry certificate' is needed to be allowed to cremate the body of the deceased.

2.5. Cremation in a temple

2.5.1. As soon as the partner has received the official 'Civil dead registry certificate' in the City Hall and thus already has the 'Letter of Powers' from the embassy, she/he can contact the temple and make arrangements for the cremation.

2.5.2. Important:

In order for the cremation to take place, the remaining partner does not yet have to take the 'Death Certificate' and the four copies to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangkok for legalization of those copies. That will happen later (see 2.6).

2.5.3. Agree with the temple manager when the body of the deceased may be taken from the morgue to the temple.

The hospital will probably ask to pay all outstanding expenses first.

2.5.4. The marriage partner must:

- . buy a coffin (these exist in all price ranges);
- . and make an appointment about who will transport the deceased.

2.5.5. Family and friends:

It is a support for the deceased's partner (and the children) when family and friends attend the cremation.

But in order to do this, it is important that they know where and when the cremation will take place.

A few tips:

a. Facebook of the deceased

Make sure your partner has the access code for your Facebook.

With a message on your Facebook she immediately reaches a lot of your friends.

Example:

I am the wife of
I am writing this message to inform you that my husband has passed away.
The cremation will take place (date) and (hour) in the temple (name and address of the temple).
It will be a support for us if we may also greet you.
My mobile number is

b. Facebook of the partner

In addition, the partner can also inform her family / friends via a message on her own Facebook.

2.6. Legalization by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangkok.

2.6.1. After the cremation, the four copies of the 'Death certificate' or 'Civil dead registry certificate' must be legalized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Bangkok.

*123, Chaengwattana Road, Thung Song Hong, Laksi,
Bangkok, 10210
Tel: 029817171*

2.6.2. For that legalization you have to bring:

- . The Civil dead registry certificate.
- . The four copies of the Civil dead registry certificate.
- . De Letter of power from the Embassy.
- . The original passport of the deceased Belgian.

2.6.3. Once the four copies have been legalized, they can be:

- . or brought to the Belgian embassy.
- . or sent to the Belgian embassy via EMS.

Belgian Embassy

16^{de} verdieping - Sathorn Square - 98 North Sathorn Road
Silom Sub-District, Bangrak District
10500 Bangkok

2.6.4. The Belgian embassy will then take care of the translation of the death certificate and the legalization (free of charge).

The embassy keeps 1 copy and sends the translation and additional copies to the deceased's partner.

3. Natural death at home

3.1. Who to notify?

- 3.1.1. When a Belgian dies at home naturally, the procedure is slightly different.
- 3.1.2. In that case, the partner must inform the doctor and the police.
- 3.1.3. If a natural death is established with 100% certainty (old age, long-term illness, etc.), an autopsy will not be performed.

8.2. The police report

- 8.2.1. A police report is made by the police in Thai.

For this, give the police a copy of the passport of the deceased and the paper that was once made on which the name of the deceased is written in correct Thai (see 1.1.2. and 1.1.3.).

- 8.2.2. Ask the police for a copy of the police report.

- 8.2.3. Often the police themselves will mail the police report to the embassy.

It's good if the surviving partner also mails a PDF of the police report to the embassy along with a copy of the deceased's passport and a copy of the partner's ID.

consular.bangkok@diplobel.fed.be .

You can do this for example with this email:

Dear,

My name is:

I am sending you this email to inform you that my husband:

holder of passport number: died in hospital:

Date:

His national number is:

In an attachment I send you a PDF with the police report, a copy of my passport and a copy of my husband's passport.

Please send a 'Vervoersdocument' (Transport document) to me.

My email address is:

My phone number is:

Thanks in advance,

- 8.1.4. In consultation with the police, the body of the deceased will be taken to a morgue.

Ask for the name and address of the morgue.

8.1.5. Insurance:

Check very carefully whether the policy of a death insurance or life insurance policy does not explicitly state that an autopsy is required.

In that case, notify the police.

Make it easy for your partner:

My insurance: O asks / O does not ask for autopsy.

8.1.6. With the police report and the letter of power from the embassy you then go to the City Hall of Amphur of your municipality where an official Civil dead registry certificate.

8.1.7. The further procedure is as in part 2.

4. Who has the partner to inform?

4.1. Who is notified by the Belgian embassy?

4.1.1. The embassy will note in the Belgian national register that the Belgian has died.

4.1.2. Other services are not notified by the embassy.

4.2. Pension service

4.2.1. The partner must inform the Belgian pension service of the death of her partner.

Make it easy for your partner by writing down very carefully:

. the email address of your pension service:

.....

. the national registration number of the deceased:

.....

Dear,

My name is:

My nationality is: My date of birth is:

I am sending you this email to inform you that my husband:

holder of passport number: passed away on :/...../.....

His national number is:

In an attachment I send you a PDF with a death certificate translated and legalized by the Belgian embassy in Bangkok.

Please inform me whether I am entitled to a pension from my deceased partner and what additional information you need from me.

My email address is:

My phone number is:

My address is:

Thanks in advance,

4.2.2. Emphasize that your partner must NOT forget to inform the pension service. If she does not do this, the pension service will still pay pension for the deceased for a few more months, until this is discovered.

This can get your partner in big trouble later on.

4.3. The Belgian tax authorities

4.3.1. The marriage partner must also inform the Belgian tax authorities of the death of her partner.

Make it easy for your partner by writing down very carefully:

. the contact details of the taxes for Belgians living abroad;

.....

. the national registration number of the deceased.

4.3.2. The partner can also use this email address: cathy.fonken@minfin.fed.be

<p><i>Dear,</i></p> <p><i>My name is:</i></p> <p><i>My nationality is: My date of birth is:</i></p> <p><i>I am sending you this email to inform you that my husband:</i></p> <p><i>holder of passport number: passed away on:/...../.....</i></p> <p><i>His national number is:</i></p> <p><i>In an attachment I send you a PDF with a death certificate translated and legalized by the Belgian Embassy in Bangkok.</i></p> <p><i>Please inform me if you need extra information and what I have to do.</i></p> <p><i>My email address is:</i></p> <p><i>My phone number is:</i></p> <p><i>My adres is</i></p> <p><i>Thanks in advance,</i></p>
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4.4. The Belgian bank(s)

4.4.1 If, despite the advice in point 1.3, you still have savings in accounts with Belgian banks, or if you still have pension in a Belgian account, your partner will have to undergo a complicated procedure to get part of this money in Thailand.

For this, it is best to contact a lawyer or notary in Belgium.

4.4.2. Your partner will also have to pay inheritance tax in Belgium.

4.5. The Thai bank(s)

4.5.1. If you have followed the advice of 1.2.1. then all funds that were in Thai bank accounts in the name of the deceased and in joint name, have been transferred to an account in the name of your partner.

After the death of the Belgian, the remaining partner will therefore have no problem paying all expenses and having the money at her/his disposal.

4.5.2. Thai bank accounts in the name of the deceased

If there are bank accounts in Thailand in the name of the deceased Belgian, or in the name of the Belgian and the surviving partner, a court decision is required before the remaining partner can dispose of those funds.

A last will can facilitate the procedure in court.

The remaining partner should contact a Thai lawyer to help her. Of course this is not free.

The remaining partner needs:

- . a legalized copy of the death certificate;
- . wedding paper;
- . last will (if made);
- . the bank books;
- . possibly bank documents.

4.5.3. This procedure can take up to 3 months.

4.6. The immigration

4.6.1. The remaining partner must also notify the Thai immigration that the Belgian has died.