



Transportation  
Security  
Administration

# Fact Sheet

## TSA TRAVEL TIPS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH CREMATED REMAINS

Each year, thousands of individuals opt to have their loved ones who have passed on cremated rather than buried. This allows them to keep the ashes of their loved ones for sentimental or other reasons. Many of the individuals who possess these remains must transport them on a commercial airliner. To date, TSA has hand inspected urns containing such remains allowing them to bypass the security checkpoint x-ray machines. Those procedures have changed and the changes are detailed below:

### THE NEW PROCESS

- All urns or containers holding cremated remains **MUST** pass through the security checkpoint x-ray machines.
- If the container is made of a material that causes the image on the x-ray machine to appear opaque and prevents the x-ray screener from being able to see what's inside, the container will **NOT** be allowed through the checkpoint, meaning it cannot be carried onto the plane.
- Urns and containers that appear opaque on the x-ray may be transported as checked baggage on the belly of the plane as long as they clear explosive detection screening.
- Under no circumstances will a TSA screener or other employee open the container at any time, even if it is requested by the passenger.

### OPTIONS FOR TRAVELERS

Because most travelers carrying an urn with cremated remains are understandably hesitant to transport them in checked baggage, TSA recommends that you purchase a temporary cremation container made of materials that **CAN** be successfully x-rayed. Those made of materials like wood, plastic, or non-lead lined ceramic allow excellent viewing on x-ray screens. After transportation, the contents may be transferred to a permanent metal or lead-lined sturdier urn.

### STILL HAVE QUESTIONS

If you have questions, or would like more information about transportation of cremated remains, please contact Amy Williams in TSA's Dallas Love Field Office at 469-335-5041. Or, visit TSA's travel tips Website at: [www.tsatraveltips.us](http://www.tsatraveltips.us)