

- Why were the defendants charged with Mail Fraud, and Transportation of Hazardous Materials? *The charges were selected to encompass all of alleged criminal conduct identified through the investigation. These were the most serious offenses that could be charged federally. The government did not identify any more serious state offenses that were potentially applicable.*
- Why weren't others charged in this case? *Under DOJ guidelines, "no prosecution should be initiated against any person unless the attorney for the government believes that the admissible evidence is sufficient to obtain and sustain a guilty verdict by an unbiased trier of fact." There is insufficient evidence to charge anyone else in this case.*
- Will I be able to get my loved ones remains returned to me? *We are unable to provide you with any records or documentation regarding your loved one or this investigation beyond what is in the public record. There is a limited number of human remains in the government's possession as evidence in this matter. It is the government's intent to return these remains to their respective families at the conclusion of this case. However, at this point, it is impossible to determine when this may occur.*
- Can I still get cremains tested? *The testing of cremains is no longer needed for investigative purposes. You can send the cremains you have to a private lab for testing. The cost is around \$400. Although testing can generally tell you if the cremains are from a biological source (i.e. human or some other living organism) versus a geological source, testing in many cases may not be able to confirm if the cremains are your loved one. No DNA testing can be done to determine whether or not the cremains are your loved one; DNA does not survive the cremation process.*
- What should I do with the cremains that I possess that are not my loved ones? *While it is entirely your choice what to do with these cremains, a memorial where they can be added may be available in the future.*
- Will I be able to attend court hearings? *Yes, although due to the number of victims in this case and courtroom size limitations you may be required to view proceedings from a secondary location.*
- Am I still considered a victim even though my family member is not one those whose initials are listed in the Indictment? *The victims in this case are not limited to the families of the individuals whose initials are in the Indictment. The victims are anyone who was defrauded as a result of the charged scheme to defraud in the Indictment. That is anyone whose family member's body or body parts was fraudulently obtained between 2010 and 2018.*
- How can I participate in light of COVID-19 concerns? *For current court guidelines please refer to the following website: <http://www.cod.uscourts.gov/CourtOperations/COVID-19Guidance.aspx>*

- Will I have to testify? *If you were interviewed by or spoke with agents during the course of this investigation, it is possible that you could be called to testify in this case. In addition, if your loved one is listed in the indictment by initials, you have likely already been contacted by our office and informed of the potential need for your testimony in this case.*
- How can I contact the prosecutor or ask additional questions about this case? *There is an email account specifically devoted to this case, [USACO.VictimAssistance@usdoj.gov](mailto:USACO.VictimAssistance@usdoj.gov). This account is monitored by several members of our office. This is the best method for victims to inquire about this case.*