

How the personal effects can be returned

Should you recognize the name of a family member or relative on the list of personal effects, please contact the Arolsen Archives. You can use the mail function that appears in the window when you click on the corresponding name on the website. Or you can write to us at the following address: info@arolsen-archives.org. The Arolsen Archives will then conduct a thorough search in the archive documents, in order to collect all the information on the path of persecution and the fate of the person in question. Following this, an Arolsen Archives staff member will contact you

You should know the following information concerning the return of personal effects:

- The effects are returned to the next living relative.
- Family members will need to present personal identification (driver's license or passport) and reveal the family relationship to the effects' owner.
- The Arolsen Archives endeavor to make a face-to-face transfer of the belongings. This can take place in Bad Arolsen or at another appropriate location, for example, at the memorial site of the specific concentration camp. Occasionally, however, it is not possible to return the effects in person, for example due to longer distances. In such cases the Arolsen Archives will dispatch the personal belongings as valuables through a parcel service (e.g. UPS or FedEx).
- The recipient must sign the „Statement on Returning Effects“, hereby confirming that he/she is entitled to receive the items. The signature exempts the Arolsen Archives from their responsibilities in case of family conflicts. The recipient cannot make any further legal claims on the Arolsen Archives.
- The Arolsen Archives return personal effects to family members through memorial sites or other institutions only when corresponding authorization is presented. The „Statement on Returning Effects“, must be signed by the lawful recipient before the belongings are transferred to the authorized person or institution.