



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™

Institute of Anatomical Sciences

Willed Body Program

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Donation of Willed Bodies

Texas law allows a person of legal age (18 years) to will his/her body without the consent of relatives, for the advancement of health sciences education and research, by signing a statement to that effect. The donation forms included on the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC), Institute of Anatomical Sciences (IAS), Willed Body Program (WBP) website are legal documents when properly executed. No formal will or executor is necessary. The Institute does not accept willed body donations from anyone under the legal age of 18 years.

Note: Registration does not guarantee acceptance of a willed body unless eligibility requirements are met at the time of death.

TTUHSC-IAS-WBP in Lubbock, Texas, is one of the State Institutions designated by the Anatomical Board of the State of Texas to receive willed bodies. The university depends heavily upon donors for the continued high level instruction available to future healthcare professionals. We are deeply grateful to those whose interest in furthering health sciences education leads them to donate their body. Appropriate forms for making the declaration of the gift can be found on the TTUHSC-IAS-WBP website. The Donation of Self Form must be signed by the Donor and requires the signatures of two adult witnesses (18yrs. or older, including relatives.) A copy of this completed form is to be retained by the donor, and the original copies must be returned to the IAS-WBP. Legally, it is not necessary that the family be informed of the donor's request for willed body donation. However, clarification of the donor's wishes to family and loved ones limits misunderstanding at the time of death. When the Institution receives the Donation Forms, a card will be sent for the individual to carry in his/her wallet. The card has a statement of the individual's wish and who to notify at the time of need; the card should be signed by the donor and witnessed by an adult.

At the time of death the next of kin, medical professional or funeral home in charge of the body should notify the TTUHSC-IAS-WBP, in order to make the necessary arrangements for transfer of the body. Expenses for services provided by a local funeral home establishment will be borne by the estate or the next of kin. A funeral service may be held before the body is released to the TTUHSC-IAS-WBP, however notification of this desire must be made to the TTUHSC-IAS-WBP prior to preparation of the body by the funeral home.

The TTUHSC-IAS-WBP plays no role in the donation of organs. Bodies from which eyes have been removed for cornea transplants are acceptable. Arrangements to donate corneas must be made through the Eye Bank. Timing is important as prompt and special preparation of the eyes is required. The TTUHSC-IAS-WBP reserves the right to refuse or deny a donor that does not meet requirements for donation as outlined in page 2 of this document.

The normal procedure for disposition of the bodies upon completion of Anatomical Studies is cremation with subsequent burial. Any request for return of cremated remains must be made in writing by completing the Return of Cremated Remains Form. There will not be a charge for the return of cremated remains. **The request form for the cremated remains must be returned within 30 days of the donors arrival to the institution. If this form is not returned, the family or next of kin relinquishes their rights to the cremated remains. The cremated remains of all individuals that are not returned will be irretrievably co-mingled and buried with the cremated remains of other individuals.**

The donor may revoke the gift at any time by notifying the Willed Body Program in writing and destroying the donation forms. Please keep us informed of any changes (e.g. address, name) on the donation form.



Requirements for Donations to the Willed Body Program

Thank you for your inquiry in regards to Whole Body Donation. The information below will provide you with the requirements for registration into our program. **Please note that registration does not guarantee acceptance unless the following four requirements are met at the time of the donor's death.**

1. **The deceased must be 18 years of age or older**
2. **The deceased must be height/weight proportionate (exceptions may be made) "Max Weight 250 LBS."**
3. **The deceased must be free of communicable diseases**
4. **The deceased must be free of Traumatic Injury (I.E. victim of traumatic accident, traumatic suicide, open wounds or sores, jaundice, edema, decomposition, autopsy, internal medical surgery within a 90-Days pre thedate of death.)**

Note: Donors may not be accepted if an autopsy has been performed or if the body has been mutilated, decomposed, harbors contagious organisms, or is located at a significant geographical distance from the university. TTUHSC-IAS-WBP does not accept bodies whose weight is not proportional to height.

Upon the death of a donor, the TTUHSC-IAS-WBP must be contacted in order for staff to screen the donor to ensure they still meet the eligibility requirements. If accepted, the removal of the body will be facilitated as previously arranged at the time of the donor registering in the program. **If the donor is denied, the family must make alternate arrangements for final disposition of the body with a local funeral home provider. (Expenses for any and all services provided by a local funeral home provider will be the responsibility of the Legal Next of Kin or Estate of the Decedent).**

TTUHSC-IAS-WBP will facilitate the final transportation of qualifying donors to our Institution.

The normal procedure for disposition of the bodies upon completion of Anatomical Studies is cremation and subsequent burial. Request for any special arrangements will be indicated upon the completion of the Return of Cremated Remains Form that is provided to the Next of Kin at the time of the donor's passing. The cremated remains of all individuals that are not returned will be irretrievably co-mingled and buried with the cremated remains of other individuals.

Note: Once TTUHSC-IAS-WBP receives a donor, said donor will remain in TTUHSC-IAS-WBP custody and care for a minimum of 14 to potentially 24 month.

Further information regarding cremation is available on page 3.



CREMATION INFORMATION RETURN OF CREMATED REMAINS

In compliance with Texas Administrative Code 479.4, TTUHSC-IAS-WBP will agree to return the available cremated human remains of an individual ONLY under the conditions presented in this agreement.

When a body is donated to science in the State of Texas, it has reached its final and permanent legal destination of disposition once it arrives at the institution in which it is donated. In this case, that institution is Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC). The relevant statute is contained in the Health and Safety Codes of the State of Texas, 691. A body that is donated to science at TTUHSC may be used in health education, research or both. In the process of education and/or research, parts of the body may be completely destroyed, or they may be kept for teaching purposes. These parts will NOT be available for cremation.

Cremation is a non-reversible process in which human remains are burned in a gas flame at a temperature of about 1800 degrees Fahrenheit. At this temperature, all soft parts of the body vaporize and only burned bone remains. The pieces of burned bone are removed and processed to resemble ash or sand. These processed cremated human remains become the “ashes” which can then be returned if requested.

NOTE: All donors are cremated individually and the crematory is cleaned before and after each cremation and the collected cremated remains of each individual are processed for either **RETURN** or **NO RETURN**. The irretrievably co-mingling of the cremated remains only occurs with the **“no return ashes”** when the cremated remains are processed for burial in the TTUHSC-IAS-WBP ossuary.

Should you have any inquiries regarding our program or Donor qualifications, please do not hesitate to contact our office at 806-743-2708.