



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER  
School of Medicine™

Department of Cell Biology & Biochemistry  
Manager Willed Body Program  
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## Information for Donation of Bodies

Texas law allows a person of legal age (18 years) to will his body without the consent of relatives, for the advancement of medical science, by signing a very simple statement to that effect. The enclosed forms are legal documents when properly executed. The Department does not accept donations from anyone under the legal age, but may, at its discretion, accept such bodies following death at the request of the legal guardians. No formal will, executor is necessary.

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine, Lubbock, Texas, is one of the schools designated by the Anatomical Board of the State of Texas to receive willed bodies. The School depends heavily upon donors for the continued high level instruction available to young physicians here. We are deeply grateful to those whose interest in furthering medical education leads them to make this donation. Appropriate forms for making the declaration of the gift are enclosed. The forms should be executed in triplicate and signed by two witnesses of legal age. The yellow copy is to be retained by the donor, the pink copy by the next of kin and the white copy is to be returned to the Department of Cell Biology and Biochemistry. Legally, it is not necessary that the family be informed of the action. However, if there is no objection, it is well that this be done, as this prevents misunderstanding later. When the institution receives the Will Forms, a card will be sent for the individual to carry in his or her wallet. The card has a statement of the individual's wish and who should be notified. The card should be signed and witnessed.

At the time of death the next of kin or Funeral Home in charge of the body should notify the institution to which the body is assigned and make the necessary arrangements; the initial charges for preparation of the body will be borne by the estate or next of kin. A funeral service may be held before the body is released to the Medical School. If this is done, however, all funeral expenses must be paid by the family or estate. If a service is desired, the next of kin should call the funeral director, who will arrange for the services.

Bodies from which eyes have been removed for cornea transplants are acceptable. Arrangements to donate corneas must be made through the Eyebank. It should be pointed out that usually prompt and special preparation of the eyes is needed. The Department of Cell Biology and Biochemistry plays no role in the donation of organs. If an autopsy is performed on the body this greatly reduces the usefulness and usually autopsied bodies are not accepted. We are also unable to accept bodies which have been mutilated, decomposed, harbor contagious organisms or which are at a distance unacceptable to the school. We are also unable to accept bodies whose weight is not proportional to height.

Unless otherwise specified by the family, the normal procedure for disposition of the bodies upon completion of Anatomical Studies is cremation with subsequent burial. Request for any special arrangements should be made in writing at the time the body is brought to the medical school; there will be a charge for the return of ashes on all donations received on or after January 1, 2004. The request for the ashes to be returned must be made at the time the body is delivered to the Medical School and the fee paid at the time of delivery. If there is any additional information we may provide, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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

