



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™

Institute of Anatomical Sciences

Willed Body Program

3601 4th Street STOP 6528

Lubbock, Texas 79430-6528

T 806.743.2708 | F 806.743.9455

[WBP.Lubbock@ttuhsc.edu](mailto:WBP.Lubbock@ttuhsc.edu)

### Information for Donation 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 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 of 18 years. No formal will or executor is necessary.

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

Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Willed Body Program, 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 and signed by two witnesses of legal age, copies should be retained by the donor and a next of kin, with the original form returned to the Willed Body Program. Legally, it is not necessary that the family be informed of the action. However, if there is no objection, it is best that this is done, as it prevents misunderstandings later. When the institution receives the Will 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 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, in order to make the necessary arrangements; any and all services provided by a local funeral 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 Willed Body Program, however notification of this should be made to the institution prior to preparation of the body by the funeral home.

The Willed Body Program 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. It should be pointed out that usually prompt and special preparation of the eyes is needed. If an autopsy is performed on the body this greatly reduces the usefulness and generally autopsied bodies are not accepted. We are also unable to accept bodies to 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. The Willed Body Program reserves the right to refuse or deny a donor that does not meet requirements for donation, outlined in page 2.

Unless otherwise specified by the family, the normal procedure for disposition of the bodies upon completion of Anatomical Studies is cremation with subsequent burial. Any request for special arrangements should be indicated by completing the Cremation Form. The request form for the ashes should be returned with the completed forms. **If this form is not returned, the family or next of kin relinquish their rights to the cremated remains.** 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 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 the date of death.*)**

Upon the death of a donor, the Willed Body Program must be contacted in order 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 will need to make alternate arrangements for final disposition of the body with a local funeral home provider. (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-WBP will facilitate the final transportation to our institution of any qualifying donor.

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 Cremation Form. It is imperative that we have this form on file. Further information regarding cremation is available on page 3.

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



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER™

Institute of Anatomical Sciences

*Willed Body Program*

## CREMATION INFORMATION RETURN OF CREMATED REMAINS

***In compliance with Texas Administrative Code 479.4, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) 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.

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 site is identified with a marker.

When the cremated remains of an individual ARE to be returned, the crematory is cleaned thoroughly before cremation and the available remains of only one human body cremated at a time. After the cremation, the machine is thoroughly cleaned and the cremated remains are processed for return.