

CAN I BE AN ORGAN DONOR AS WELL AS FOR WHOLE BODY?

The registry can accept a body after the EYES and SKIN have been donated. Although we prefer the remains to be intact, at times we may be able to accept a body after the internal organs have been harvested, however IT CANNOT BE GUARANTEED.

WILL MY FAMILY RECEIVE ANY REPORTS FROM THE MEDICAL SCHOOL?

The medical schools cannot give out any reports concerning their anatomical studies. If the family has any questions regarding the cause of death, such matters should be directed to the deceased's physician.

WHAT HAPPENS IF DEATH OCCURS OUT OF STATE?

Your body can be donated to the nearest medical school or Anatomical Board. Your donor card is a legal document in all fifty states.

WHAT IF I AM A RESIDENT OF OHIO OR NEW YORK STATE?

If death occurs in these two states, we highly recommend that the family make donation arrangements to the nearest in state medical school. If you have a strong preference to donate your remains to the University of Pittsburgh or Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, your next of kin will be responsible for retaining the services of a funeral director to transport your body to the medical school. All costs for transportation are the responsibility of the next of kin. **We will not accept out of state donors without pre-registration.**

HOW DOES MY FAMILY OBTAIN COPIES OF THE DEATH CERTIFICATE?

Your family may obtain certified copies of the death certificate through the funeral director who has transported your remains to the medical school or directly through the Bureau of Vital Records in New Castle, Pennsylvania. One cannot legally obtain copies from a hospital or physician.

Costs for death certificates and fees which a funeral director may charge for his/her services in obtaining such copies, are the responsibility of the next of kin or estate. The Registry has no jurisdiction in the matter.

RUMORS

Rumors persist that one may sell one's body to a medical school or the Humanity Gifts Registry. **UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL PAYMENT BE MADE FOR A BODY OR BODY PARTS.**

HUMANITY GIFTS REGISTRY

P.O. BOX 835

PHILADELPHIA, PA 19105-0835

(215) 922-4440

www.hgrpa.org

Email: info@hgrpa.org

**University of Pittsburgh
and LECOM Donors**

*Through your
generosity
knowledge
grows...*



**HUMANITY GIFTS REGISTRY
WESTERN PA COUNTIES**

WHAT IS THE HUMANITY GIFTS REGISTRY?

The Humanity Gifts Registry is a non-profit agency of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania concerned primarily with the receipt and distribution of bodies donated to all medical and dental schools in the state for teaching purposes. The Registry, formerly called the Anatomical Board, has been in existence since 1883.

HOW DOES ONE MAKE THE DONATION?

Complete enclosed Uniform Donor Cards. Both cards must be witnessed by two adults. Witness may be family members. Return the Registration Card for our records.

Donors signing a Uniform Donor Card must be at least 18 years of age.

IS THERE AN AGE LIMIT?

There is absolutely no age limit for total body donation for medical education and research. Age is not a criteria for acceptance or rejection.

HOW LONG WILL STUDIES TAKE IN A MEDICAL SCHOOL?

Studies for medical education and research will take up to two years or longer to be completed.

WHAT HAPPENS TO MY BODY AFTER STUDIES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED?

Upon completion of studies, the remains will be cremated and the ashes interred, with others, in one of our established cemeteries located in Pittsburgh and Erie.

If a family wishes to have the ashes returned for private burial, special arrangements can be made. The Registry office must have a written request from the next of kin at the time of death of the donor. A family should be aware it may take up to two years or longer before the ashes may be available.

WILL MY NAME BE RECORDED AT THE REGISTRY'S GRAVESITE?

No. In order to respect the privacy and anonymity requested by some donors, the names of donors do not appear at the gravesite. However, all gravesites are marked by a number. Information regarding your final resting place is available from the Registry office.

ARE THERE ANY COSTS INVOLVED WHEN MY BODY HAS BEEN DONATED?

The Registry will pay one hundred dollars towards the expense of having your body transported from the place of death, by a licensed funeral director, to one of our medical teaching institutions. Your next of kin or estate will be responsible for the costs over this amount.

The Registry also assumes the cost of cremation, burial of the ashes in our established cemeteries and Celebrations of Remembrance held by the Registry once a year.

WHAT DO YOUR CELEBRATIONS OF REMEMBRANCE INVOLVE?

Our Celebrations of Remembrance are held each year in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. Family members and friends are invited to help us honor and commemorate the special individuals who have selflessly donated their bodies for the advancement of medical education and research. Names of the donors are included on a Memorial Card at the request of the family. Medical students and faculty members from all of our medical schools will be participating and attending the celebrations.

ARE THERE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH MY BODY MAY NOT BE ACCEPTABLE AT DEATH?

It is only under most unusual circumstances that a donor's body would be rejected; however the Registry reserves the right to refuse a donation.

Bodies of persons dying from highly communicable diseases, crushing injuries, whose remains are autopsied, decomposed, embalmed, obese, or have had recent extensive surgery prior to death may not be accepted.

A determination is made at death for acceptance of remains. If the Registry is unable to accept a body, it will not be removed from the place of death. Disposition would be the responsibility of the next of kin.

**PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING INSTRUCTION BEFORE
COMPLETING THE DONOR FORMS FOR BODY DONATION:
THIS IS A PRE-REGISTRATION FOR YOURSELF**

- 1) Complete two Uniform Donor forms, having both witnessed by two persons aged 18 or older.
- 2) Return one copy to our office at the P.O. Box address on the form.
- 3) Keep your copy in a safe place that is accessible for family members. DO NOT place in bank vault.
- 4) Discuss this donation with your immediate family members and your physician. They will then be aware of your wishes and be able to contact our office to carry them out.
- 5) Give instruction sheet and copies of your signed donor forms to next of kin, executor of estate or other persons who will be responsible for notification of your death to the Registry.
- 6) Be sure a COPY of the Uniform Donor Form is placed on your chart if you should ever enter the hospital or nursing home.
- 7) Your Donor form will remain on file until your death. There is NO NEED to renew the form or update changes of address with our office. Our office will obtain all relevant information at the time of death.
- 8) If you wish to cancel the donation in the future, please contact us in writing and we will remove your file from our records. We will NOT take a cancellation request over the phone.
- 9) IF DEATH OCCURS OUTSIDE OF PENNSYLVANIA, N.J. OR DELAWARE, medical personnel or your family is to contact the nearest medical school or Anatomy Board to make the donation in that State. We will not make arrangements for your body to come back to Pennsylvania.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR TIME OF DEATH FOR BODY DONATION

Weekdays (8am to 3pm Mon-Fri):

A telephone call to this office (215-922-4440) must be made by family, medical personnel or if there is no family, the responsible person appointed.

We will obtain all medical information regarding the donor to determine acceptability (see brochure). Once we have spoken with the nearest next of kin and they are in agreement with the proceedings, we will work with your family for arrangements for transportation to a medical school by the licensed funeral director. Your family may choose their own funeral home or we can suggest one if possible. As your family is paying the costs over \$100.00, *it is very strongly suggested that you contact more than one establishment for a price quote before you need this service. Prices vary greatly.*

DEATH AFTER OFFICE HOURS

HOSPITAL DEATH:

Medical personnel should be alerted to the fact that you are a donor with a copy of your donor card on your chart. They need to call our office and inform our answering service there has been a death. They will need to leave the name and telephone number of your next of kin as well as the person in that hospital for us to call back the next business day. *Your body shall be placed in the morgue and we will call the next business day to obtain information BEFORE any arrangements are made for the donation. We must speak with your family or responsible person first. If your family does not hear from our staff by 10am the next business day, they need to call us immediately.*

RESIDENCE, RETIREMENT COMMUNITY OR NURSING HOME DEATHS

The next of kin must be notified first prior to transportation to a medical school. Next, the attending physician must be called to confirm death and acknowledge that he/she will sign a death certificate to be available for the funeral home within the next 24-36 hours. The next call is to the funeral home your family has chosen.* The Funeral Director must call our office *and inform our answering service that they have been chosen by the family to transport remains as soon as possible and need information as to the medical schools with after hours access. We ask that they please be cooperative if the operator has questions, this is done at our direction so we have all information we need the next business day.*

**If you want the Registry to make arrangements with a local funeral home instead, if possible:*

Our answering service needs to be told a death has occurred in a residence or facility where there is no refrigerated morgue and needs to be transported immediately and to please contact the funeral home on call in that county area for arrangements. That funeral home will call the home or facility to make arrangements. Again, please note that we cannot refer a funeral director in some counties and your family would need to make arrangements locally.

HUMANITY GIFTS REGISTRY (215) 922-4440
P.O. BOX 835 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19105-0835

RETURN THIS CARD TO REGISTRY OFFICE
UNIFORM DONOR CARD

OF _____
(Print or type name of donor)

In the hope that I may help others, I hereby donate my body, if medically acceptable, to the Humanity Gifts Registry, P.O. Box 835, Philadelphia, PA 19105 for anatomical study and research. Please notify the Registry upon my death.*

***Phone (215) 922-4440 (24 hours)**

SIGNATURE _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

DATE SIGNED _____

ADDRESS _____

WITNESSES:

1) _____

2) _____

This is a legal document under the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act or similar laws.

I understand the terms and conditions of this registration.

Rev. 01/16

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