

WILLED BODY PROGRAM DONOR FORM

Date

Name of Donor (Please Print) Date of Birth

Address City, State, Postal Code Phone Number

It is my wish at the time of my death that my body is made available for teaching and scientific purposes to the Anatomical Board of the State of Texas (SAB) as represented by The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, McGovern Medical School. I understand that at the time of death an **“embalming fee” of \$400 is assessed to donors beyond 100 miles from the UT-Houston Medical School.** The Medical School will pay for transportation/mileage if the place of death is within a **300 mile radius** of The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston 6431 Fannin Street Houston, Texas 77030. **However, in addition to the “embalming fee”, if the place of death is beyond 300 miles, a “mileage” charge is also assessed for each mile beyond 300.**

Upon completion of the use of my body, I authorize the Medical School to cremate my body and scatter the cremated remains at sea. Alternative to scattering at sea, the cremains may be returned to the next of kin or a designee listed on the Special Request Form. **A fee of \$180 is assessed for the return of the cremated remains to a designee on the Special Request Form.**

I understand that the Medical School reserves the right to decline a body that is registered with the Willed Body Program and that no guarantee exists that my body will be accepted at the time of death. I understand that if I am obese or emaciated; have jaundice or a contagious disease (e.g. HIV, Hepatitis, TB, M.R.S.A., etc.); have damage from trauma; have organs removed (for transplantation), have an autopsy; or if I commit suicide, my body donation will be declined by the Willed Body Program. If the Willed Body Program declines the donation, my next of kin must make other arrangements for my body’s final disposition. The Willed Body Program is not responsible for any costs associated with other necessary arrangements.

I hereby relinquish all rights and claims regarding my body and direct that by accepting and using this body for teaching and scientific purposes and its subsequent disposition, neither the SAB, nor any receiving institution, shall incur any liability and no manner of claim shall arise against the SAB or a receiving institution. I authorize the State Anatomical Board to transport the willed/donated body hereon described out of the State of Texas in the event that the holding institution and the secretary-treasurer of the SAB have determined that an excess of bodies currently exists in the State of Texas.

Complaints or inquiries regarding a willed or donated body should be directed to the secretary-treasurer of the Anatomical Board of the State of Texas. The name and address of this individual may be obtained from the institution to which the body was delivered and is listed in the Texas State Telephone Directory.

Signature of Donor

1st Witness (Anyone 18 years or older, including relatives)

2nd Witness (Anyone 18 years or older, including relatives)

Address **City, State, Zip** **Phone**

Address **City, State, Zip** **Phone**

*******The information below refers to the Donor’s Next of Kin. The Next of Kin may also be one of the “Witnesses”*******

Next of Kin

Relationship to Donor

Address City, State, Zip Phone

Signature of Next of Kin

PLEASE COMPLETE OTHER SIDE->

**Special Request Form
For Scatter or Return of Cremated Remains**

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TWO OPTIONS FOR DISPOSITION OF THE CREMAINS:

I DO NOT wish the return of my cremated remains. Please scatter my cremated remains at sea.

Signature of Donor

Date

******* OR *******

I request my cremated remains returned to the recipient below.

I request my cremated remains to be returned to the undersigned recipient. Therefore, I hereby request and authorize UT Health, McGovern Medical School and the crematory to return my cremated remains to the recipient at the address below via the United States Postal Service. **A fee of \$180 is assessed for the return of my cremated remains to the recipient on this form.** The Medical School will contact the recipient at the time the cremated remains become available for return. I understand that every effort is made to comply with my request and **two years or more may elapse before contact.** The Willed Body Program will hold the cremains for no less than ninety (90) days after sending notification to the recipient. However, in the absence of other instructions or if no contact by the recipient is established, my cremated remains will be scattered at sea.

Name of Recipient of the cremated remains

Relationship to donor

Address

City,

State,

Postal Code

Phone Number

Signature of Donor

Date

WILLED BODY PROGRAM **Frequently Asked Questions**

How do I will my body to science?

If you are interested in donating for the purpose of medical education and research, contact The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston McGovern Medical School at **(713) 500-5603** and request that we send body donation forms to you. Upon receipt, complete the forms, have it witnessed, and return the originals to the Medical School.

Do you accept a body which has been autopsied?

No. It is not a good teaching specimen for the study of human anatomy.

If I am signed up with an organ donation center, can I still donate my body to The Willed Body Program?

We will not accept a body if organs have been removed (post-mortem) for transplantation. You may, however, register with both organizations so that at the time of death if the organs are not suitable for transplantation, you may be able to donate the whole body to our institution. We want the body to be in the best possible condition for our anatomical teaching and research. To remove an organ for transplantation would cause the body to be unusable for instruction purposes.

When a person dies, what does the family do?

At the time of death, the family will call our **Anatomical Call Pager at (713) 760-2649**. Let them know that a pre-willed arrangement was made by the deceased, or that the nearest surviving relative wishes to make a donation to our Medical School.

What if I live outside of Houston, can I still donate my body?

Yes. We will provide transportation of the remains from any location in Texas. However, the Medical School will only assume all costs (such as: pick-up, transportation, mileage, embalming) within a 100 mile radius of the Medical School at 6431 Fannin Street Houston, Texas 77030. **Removals made outside of the radius are subject to mileage and/or embalming charges.**

When would a body be unacceptable for donation?

We would not accept a **registered donor's** body for the program if the body has been severely injured in an accident, if a highly contagious disease such as hepatitis, (which sometimes causes jaundice), VD, TB, HIV or MRSA/VRE is present at the time of death; if the body is obese, has edema, or is emaciated due to neglect; or if the body is too large for storage purposes. We will not accept a body that has had organs removed (post-mortem) for transplantation.

Can a body be donated for specific disease research?

No. The primary use of the cadavers is for medical education. We do not accept bodies to ascertain the cause of death or for specific disease research.

Are there age restrictions for body donation?

There is no age maximum, but the minimum age is eighteen (18) years-old.

What do you do with the body and how long do you keep it?

The bodies are used in the teaching of anatomy to medical students, and for special projects concerning specific parts of the body. The bodies are housed at our facility and may be used for **2 years or more**.

What do you do with the remains when you are finished?

The Medical School cremates all remains. There is no charge for cremains designated for scattering at sea. **If the donor or family requests that the cremains be returned to the next of kin or designee, we charge a current rate of \$180.00.** The cremains will be held for at least 90 days following notification by mail that the cremains are available for return. If no contact is established with the next of kin or designated recipient of the cremated remains, the remains will be co-mingled in preparation for scattering at sea and will no longer be available for return. **It is extremely important to update the recipient's contact information with the Willed Body Program.**

How does one cancel a body donation?

Written notification to our office of your wish to rescind your donation will remove you from our database.

Should a notation be in the will of someone donating his/her body?

Yes. Doing so would emphasize your desire to make the donation.

In the event that someone dies and hasn't filled out the proper documentation prior to death, can their body still be donated by a relative or next of kin?

Yes. The surviving relatives or next of kin is provided with an After Death Donor Form, after the remains of the deceased has been accepted into the Willed Body Program. The State Anatomical Board of Texas defines the next of kin in priority order as follows:

- a) Spouse
- b) If no living spouse, an adult son or daughter
- c) If no living spouse or adult son or daughter, then either living parent
- d) If no living spouse, adult son or daughter or either parent, then an adult brother or sister.

If you have additional questions about the program, please call or e-mail The Willed Body Program at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston McGovern Medical School.

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