

**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 that at the time of my death, my body will be made available for teaching and scientific purposes to the Anatomical Board of the State of Texas (SAB) as represented by McGovern Medical School at UTHealth. The Medical+6+ School will pay for transportation if the place of death is within a **300 mile radius** of the Medical School (6431 Fannin Street Houston, Texas 77030). **If the place of death is beyond 300 miles, a Mileage Fee will be assessed by the contracted funeral home based on the distance.** Furthermore, I understand that at the time of death an **Embalming Fee (currently \$400.00) may be assessed by the contract funeral home if my body is further than 100 miles from the Medical School and circumstances dictate that the body be embalmed before transportation to the Medical School.**

Upon completion of the use of my body, I authorize the Medical School to cremate my body. I understand that it is the policy of the Medical School to scatter the cremated remains at sea. I understand that I may request that the cremated remains be returned to the next of kin or a designee by completing the Special Request Form and paying a Processing Fee.

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 my body donation will be declined by the Willed Body Program if I am morbidly obese, or have a contagious disease (e.g. HIV, hepatitis, TB, M.R.S.A., etc.); have damage from trauma; have internal organs removed (for transplantation); have an autopsy; or death is due to suicide. 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 SAB 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 SAB. 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
**1<sup>st</sup> Witness** (Anyone 18 years or older, including relatives)

\_\_\_\_\_  
**2<sup>nd</sup> 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address of Next of Kin (for correspondence from WBP)

## Special Request Form For Return of Cremated Remains

Although it is the policy of the McGovern Medical School at UTHealth to scatter cremated remains at sea, I request the donor's cremated remains to be returned to the recipient designated below. Therefore, I hereby request and authorize McGovern Medical School at UTHealth to return the donor's cremated remains to the recipient at the address below via the United States Postal Service. **A fee will be assessed for the return of the cremated remains to the recipient on this form. The fee (currently \$250.00) is determined by the date of the donor's enrollment into the program.** This fee is nonrefundable. The Medical School will contact the recipient at the time the cremated remains become available for return. I understand that **two years or more may elapse before notification.** The Willed Body Program will hold the cremated remains for no less than ninety (90) days after sending notification to the recipient. **It is the obligation of the recipient to communicate changes in contact information to the Willed Body Program.** If the recipient does not respond to the notification, the cremated remains will be scattered at sea.

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Name of Recipient of the cremated remains

Relationship to donor

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Address

City,

State,

Postal Code

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Phone Number

E-mail Address

Date

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Signature

## **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 Willed Body Program at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth at **(713) 500-5603** and request that we send Willed Body Donor Forms to you. Upon receipt, complete the forms, have them witnessed, and return the originals to the McGovern Medical School.

### **Can I donate a body to science not registered with our program?**

Yes, in the event that someone dies and has not filled out the proper documentation, is near the time of death or if the person is unable to sign forms for themselves, the legal next of kin can make the donation if the donor meets the criteria of our program. Contact the Willed Body Program at **(713) 500-5603**. If this is an urgent donation matter, we ask that you call the 24/7 Donation Pager **(713) 760-2649**. After the donor is accepted to the program, you will be provided an After-Death Donation Form to complete and return to the Willed Body Program.

The State Anatomical Board of Texas defines the legal 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.

### **Do you accept a body which has been autopsied?**

No. It is not a good teaching specimen for the study of human anatomy. However, sometimes we have a special project in progress that allows us to accept the donation. Therefore, you would have to call us at the time of death to determine whether or not we could accept an autopsied body.

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

Yes, under special circumstances. We will not accept a body if internal 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 program. We want the body to be in the best possible condition for our anatomical teaching and research. To remove internal organs for transplantation would cause the body to be unusable for instructional purposes.

### **When a person dies, what does the family do?**

At the time of death, after the proper authorities have been notified (e.g. 9-1-1, hospice nurse, care facility nurse, etc.), the family or authorities should contact the **Donation Pager at (713) 760-2649 at any time, day or night**, and inform us if the decedent is registered with our program or if it is an after-death donation.

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

Yes. We will provide transportation of the body from any location in Texas. Our contracted funeral home will assess an **embalming fee (currently \$400.00) to donors beyond 100 miles from the McGovern Medical School. In addition, if the place of death is beyond 300 miles, a fee is also assessed by our contracted funeral home for each mile beyond 300.** The Medical School will pay for transportation and mileage if the place of death is within a **300 mile radius** of The University of Texas Health Science Center McGovern Medical School at Houston 6431 Fannin Street Houston, Texas 77030.

**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, VD, TB, HIV or MRSA/VRE is present at the time of death; if the body is morbidly obese, has excessive generalized edema or if the body is too large for storage purposes. We will not accept a body that has had internal 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.

**Can I obtain a tissue sample for DNA analysis after donation?**

No. The logistics of providing specimens of this type are not feasible.

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

Donated bodies are used in the teaching of anatomy to medical students, for continuing education courses, for medical doctors and for special projects. The bodies are housed at our facility and may be used for **2 years or more, but depending on various factors this length of time could be considerably less.**

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

McGovern Medical School will cremate all remains.

**Is there a fee for the return of the cremated remains?**

Yes, **if the donor or family requests that the cremated remains be returned to the next of kin or designee, we charge a fee for the cremation services (currently \$250.00).** The fee is determined by the date of the donor's enrollment into the program. There is no charge for cremated remains designated for scattering at sea. The cremated remains will be held for at least 90 days following notification by mail that the cremated remains are available for return. If no contact is established with the legal next of kin or designated recipient, the cremated 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 their body?**

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

**If you have additional questions about the program, please call or e-mail The Willed Body Program at McGovern Medical School at UTHealth.**

**Tamatha Guillen**  
Senior Coordinator, Willed Body Program  
McGovern Medical School at UTHealth  
6431 Fannin Street, Ste. 7.046  
Houston, Texas 77030  
713-500-5603 Phone | 713-500-0522 Fax  
[Tamatha.D.Guillen@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:Tamatha.D.Guillen@uth.tmc.edu) Email  
[WilledBodyProgram@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:WilledBodyProgram@uth.tmc.edu) Email

**Willed Body Program**

6431 Fannin Street, Ste. 7.046 | Houston, Texas 77030-1501  
713-500-5603 Phone | 713-500-0522 Fax | 713-760-2649 Donation Pager  
[willedbodyprogram@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:willedbodyprogram@uth.tmc.edu) | <https://go.uth.edu/wbp>