

What reassurance can I give my family concerning the final disposition of my body?

After our studies are complete – usually 18 months or more after death – the remains will be cremated. The family or estate will be contacted when the cremains are ready for release. The cremains may either be picked up at the ABP office by prior arrangement or mailed to a designee via United States Postal Service Certified Mail. The University will pay the shipping costs.

Is payment made in connection with donation of a body?

No, It is illegal to buy or sell human bodies in all 50 states.

May friends and/or relatives make contributions to the Anatomy Bequest Program of the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology in my memory?

Yes. Gifts will be acknowledged for the donor and to your family. Funds from such gifts will be used only for medical education and research.

Summary

The decision to donate one's body can be carried out by properly executing and returning forms to The University. These forms can be requested or downloaded from the website: uthsc.edu/anatomy-neurobiology/anatomical-bequest-program. The bequest becomes effective when The University acknowledges the donation and sends an identification card.

Even when a bequest is fully described in a last will and testament, signed bequest forms must be on file with The University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

The University of Tennessee is an EEO/AA/Title VI/Title IX/Section 504/ADA/ADEA institution in the provision of its education and employment programs and services.



COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY
AND NEUROBIOLOGY

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weekends, holidays)
bequest@uthsc.edu

DONATING YOUR BODY TO MEDICAL SCIENCE

**SO THAT OTHERS
MAY LIVE**



ANATOMICAL BEQUEST
PROGRAM

THE ANATOMICAL BEQUEST PROGRAM (ABP) AT UTHSC ACCEPTS ANATOMICAL GIFTS TO BENEFIT THE FUTURE HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE.

The thoughtfulness behind these donations has been greatly appreciated by the students and the instructors. These single acts of generosity touch the lives of so many over the course of the career of the doctors, dentists, therapists, and other practitioners. Our students and residents use the knowledge and skills they have learned to improve the quality of life of others, and thus improve society as a whole.

The Issue

Examination of the dead to gain knowledge of the living has been practiced since ancient times.

The increasing need for health care workers requires more bodies for biomedical education and research than ever before. The University of Tennessee Health Science Center needs more than 100 bodies each year to successfully train students and residents for careers in health care and biomedical research.

The Solution

The solution lies in the increasing number of people who choose to give their bodies to medical science. The state of Tennessee has enacted The Tennessee Code Title 68, Chapter 30 – Anatomical Gifts (TN Code§ 68-30), and The University of Tennessee Health Science Center operates within the framework of this law and other legislation. Every effort is made to answer a family's questions or concerns when accepting the gift of a body.

The Decision

The decision to donate one's body for medical teaching and research should be made only after a great deal of thought. Those considering such a donation should discuss it with family members, family physician, attorney and/or clergy. Failure to make the decision known to others may defeat all advance arrangements made by donors.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How can I donate my body to UTHSC?

To enroll in the ABP, please complete the *Anatomic Gift by Living Donor and Vital Statistics Information* forms. These forms must be signed, witnessed by two adults, and returned within thirty (30) days of the date signed to the address on the back of the pamphlet. When the forms are received, we will send a letter confirming enrollment, a copy of the enrollment forms, and two donor identification cards.

Expressing your wishes in your will is not sufficient for The University to accept the body. The University does not accept anatomical donations made on any forms other than those we provide.

What if I change my mind after signing papers making the bequest?

Please contact the ABP if you wish to revoke the bequest. The University will cancel the bequest upon confirmation of this request in accordance with TCA 68-30-110.

What circumstances might cause refusal of a donation?

Reasons a donation cannot be accepted include, but are not limited to:

- Infectious diseases, e.g., MRSA, Hepatitis, AIDS, TB, COVID-19
- Sepsis
- Extreme obesity or severe wasting
- Death caused by suicide, trauma or acts of violence
- Advanced decomposition
- Autopsied body
- Bodies used for tissue or organ donation, except for corneas
- Notification of death not received immediately

The University reserves the right to decline a donation at time of death, for any reason deemed necessary; therefore, alternative arrangements should be made in the event the donation is declined.

What if a donor dies outside Tennessee?

The survivors or estate must pay the costs for the removal of the body from the state of death, preparation, and transfer of the body to The University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

What expenses to the family or estate are incurred with donating one's body?

None, unless death occurs outside of Tennessee.

When should The University be notified of my death?

Immediately after the pronouncement of my death by healthcare providers, law enforcement or medical examiner, call The University at **901.448.5978** (during business hours) or **901.448.2640** (after hours, on weekends, or holidays).

To verify that the deceased is enrolled in the ABP, the informant should be prepared to give the donor's full name, social security number and/or date of birth.

Does a donor's family receive a report on findings when studies are completed?

No. The nature of our studies makes it impractical to report details to families or their representative. Similarly, although our utilization of donated bodies contributes to advances in biomedical science, we cannot guarantee that an individual donation will be used to increase knowledge of any specific disease or clinical condition.