

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for your inquiry regarding whole body donation to the Willed Body Program at Baylor College of Medicine ("College"). Before filling out the "Bequest (Donor) Form," please review the page "Common Facts and Misconceptions About Donating Your Body to a Medical School" with your family member(s). It is important that your next of kin be informed and agrees with your wishes to donate your body.

To register, the donor and witnesses need to complete all appropriate sections of the Bequest (Donor) Form, sign and date, and return the paperwork at least 6 months in advance of the anticipated donation. **Please keep this cover letter and a copy of the completed form for future reference.** You may wish to share these documents with those you want to be informed, such as your physician, minister, attorney, and next of kin.

Please return the signed original form to:

The Willed Body Program
Baylor College of Medicine
One Baylor Plaza, BCM832
Houston, TX 77030

Note: We **do not** accept Bequest (Donor) forms by email. Upon receipt of the completed Bequest (Donor) Form, we will send you an acknowledgement letter and a donor card for you to carry for donor identification. Please update our office if your contact information changes. Should you change your mind regarding whole body donation, the bequest form will be made invalid upon a written notification from you.

There are cases in which bodies cannot be accepted for donation and this is determined at the time of death. Examples of bodies that cannot be accepted include those with severe injury or deformity from an accident; contagious diseases (hepatitis, HIV/AIDS, COVID-19, tuberculosis); obesity or edema; autopsy at the time of death, or removal of organs (including corneas) transplantation. We recommend families have alternative plans in case the body cannot be donated at the time of death.

At the time of death, the individual in attendance should call Carnes Funeral Home at 1-888-822-7637 or 409-986-9900 to report the death as a Baylor College of Medicine Willed Body donation. Carnes staff will make sure the body meets the acceptable criteria and then arrange for removal and transportation of the donor to the College. The legal next of kin or the person with right and duty of disposition will need to complete and return a release form to the College within 2 weeks of the death.

There is no charge to the family or estate for transportation of the donor's body from any point within a 100-mile radius of Houston to the College's medical school, and there is no charge for standard cremation. Baylor College of Medicine may study the body for three or more years. The final disposition (cremation) is through the medical school. There is a fee of \$165.00 for the return of cremated remains to the family. If families do not request the return of the cremated remains, they will be scattered at sea in our customary manner per federal regulations.

Your desire to donate your body to Baylor College of Medicine is deeply appreciated. The gift of one's body is an invaluable contribution to the education of future health care professionals and, ultimately, the advancement of medical science. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Caroline M. Kosnik
Caroline M. Kosnik, M.L.S.

Executive Director, Anatomy Education Core & Willed Body Program

03-04-2025

**COMMON FACTS AND MISCONCEPTIONS
ABOUT DONATING YOUR BODY TO A MEDICAL SCHOOL**

WILLED BODY PROGRAM
Baylor College of Medicine
One Baylor Plaza, BCM832
Houston, Texas 77030
Phone (713) 798-3858

- The medical school's primary purpose for accepting donated bodies is for teaching. Research is conducted based upon the needs of the faculty and staff at our institution.
- Donating your body is not a legal or binding contract either on the part of a medical school or the individual donating their body.
- A donor may cancel his or her bequest in writing at any time.
- A medical school reserves the right to reject a body that does not meet its criteria for teaching and research. We cannot accept the body to our program if an autopsy is necessary or if there is traumatic injury, contagious diseases, suicide or removal of organs for transplantation.
- Alternative plans should be made for the disposition of the body in case a body is not accepted.
- To ensure that maximum benefit is derived from this contribution, a medical school may transfer a body to another teaching or research institution within the State of Texas. Transfers must be approved by the Texas Funeral Service Commission.
- We do not accept organs for transplantation. Life Gift coordinates organ donation and Lyon's Eye Bank coordinates cornea donation in the Houston area.
- We do not accept bodies from which organs (including corneas) have been removed for transplantation.
- Shortly after death, the legal next of kin or the person with right and duty of disposition of remains must sign a release form. In the State of Texas, the legal next of kin is responsible for the disposition of the body. The order of relationship for the legal next of kin is: spouse, child (ren) of legal age, parent, brother or sister of legal age, grandchildren of legal age. If there are no living relatives, an executor or someone designated with the right and duty of disposition may sign the release form.
- The final disposition (cremation) of the body after donation rests with the medical school. Special arrangements can be made to return cremated remains to the family; however, a special handling fee applies.
- Medical schools recognize the need for some families to have a memorial service (a funeral service in which the body is not present). Arrangements for a service are made by the family at their discretion. Many families choose to make arrangements with a clergy member or to contact a local funeral home.
- The Texas Funeral Service Commission provides regulatory oversight to willed body programs, non-transplant anatomical donation organizations and anatomical facilities in Texas. <https://tfsc.texas.gov/>

**BEQUEST (DONOR) FORM
THE WILLED BODY PROGRAM**

Baylor College of Medicine
One Baylor Plaza, BCM832
Houston, Texas 77030
Phone (713) 798-3858

It is my wish that subsequent to my death, Baylor College of Medicine receive my body for teaching and scientific purposes. To assure that maximum benefit is derived from the contribution, and if approved by the Texas Funeral Service Commission, I authorize Baylor College of Medicine to transfer my body to other teaching or research institutions within the State of Texas.

() Yes () No _____
(Initials) (Date)

I understand that if an autopsy is necessary, or other extenuating circumstances occur, such as, traumatic injury, contagious disease (HIV virus, hepatitis), suicide, or if organs or parts have been removed for transplantation my body may not be accepted by the willed body program.

Name of DONOR (Please Print) Birth date: Gender: Social Security #:

Address of DONOR including City, State and Zip Code

Phone number of DONOR Email address of DONOR

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Signature of DONOR

Name of Next of Kin (NOK) or Power of Attorney (POA) (Please Print) Relationship to Donor

Address of NOK or POA including City, State and Zip Code

Phone number of NOK or POA Email address of NOK or POA

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Signature of Next of Kin or Power of Attorney

Signature and addresses of two witnesses, preferably anticipated survivors:

We, the undersigned witnesses, certify that we were over the age of 21 years at the time of the donor's signature and that we witnessed such signature.

Name of Witness (Please Print)

Name of Witness (Please Print)

Address of Witness

Address of Witness

City, State and Zip Code

City, State and Zip Code

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Signature of Witness

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Signature of Witness

**Keep a copy for your files; Return (mail) signed original to address above.
Emailed copies cannot be accepted.**

Complaints or inquiries regarding a willed or donated body should be directed to the **Texas Funeral Service Commission**, 1801 Congress Avenue, Suite 11.800, Austin, Texas 78701
Contact Phone: 512-936-2474, Toll free: 1-888-667-4881, E-mail: info@tfsc.texas.gov