For information contact:
Division of Anatomy
279 Hamilton Hall
1645 Neil Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43210
Phone: (614) 292-4831
Fax: (614) 292-7659
Melody Barton,
Body Donor Program Coordinator
Melody.Barton@osumc.edu
http://go.osu.edu/bodydonation

Organ Donation:
Lifeline of Ohio
Procurement Program
770 Kinnear Rd.
Columbus, OH 43212
800-525-5667

Central Ohio Lions Eye Bank
262 Neil Avenue, Suite 140
Columbus, OH 43215
614-545-2057

Potential donors may register with both programs. However, you may only participate in one program. If your organs are viable for transplantation, Lifeline of Ohio will be contacted and they will harvest your tissue and organs for transplant. If not, then the Body Donor Program will be contacted and will determine if you meet the donation requirements based on the aforementioned restrictions.

Monetary Donation:
It is possible to make monetary donations to the Division of Anatomy in memory of the donor. These will be deposited into an Anatomy Teaching Fund account reserved for the support of those teaching efforts.

Please make checks payable to:
The Ohio State University
Address:
The Division of Anatomy
Body Donor Program
279 Hamilton Hall
1645 Neil Avenue
Columbus, OH 43210
Anatomical Education or Research for the Advancement of Medical Science and Health Initiatives

Anatomical donations are regarded as unselfish gifts to medical education and research. Donors and their families can be assured their contribution is appreciated and treated with the utmost respect.

An anatomical donation may be used for education or research for the advancement of medical science and health initiatives. Examples of how the gift might be used include medical education and training, forensic sciences (e.g., pathology, engineering, anthropology, taphonomy), vehicle safety or the development of protective equipment (e.g., sports, military, law enforcement).

How to Arrange the Donation of Your Body

Should you decide to donate your body, please complete and mail the Anatomical Bequeathal and Cremation Authorization Forms to the address provided. Your information will be entered into our database. It is requested you keep Anatomy informed of any changes in your information. PLEASE FILL IN THE FORMS COMPLETELY. They will be returned if not completed.

It is strongly recommended that you discuss this decision with your family to better assist them with arrangements at the time of your death. Time is a factor and your next of kin must be in a position to act immediately following your death. It is also wise to inform your physician, lawyer, and funeral director of your wishes.

At the Time of Death

The Division of Anatomy should be contacted by the funeral home or health facility in order to obtain medical information, Monday – Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 PM at 614-292-4831. Instructions are provided on the voice message regarding after-hours calls.

Although each registered donor is normally accepted, restrictions may include:

- A. Contagious disease (HIV, Hepatitis, TB, any hospital acquired disease including MRSA and Clostridium difficile, etc.)
- B. Extreme emaciation, obesity, or body contractures
- C. Severe trauma or open wounds (including certain recent surgeries)
- D. Ascites, edema, or sepsisemia
- E. Organs or parts removed at time of death, except eyes
- F. Current education or research programs are not in need of donors

The funeral director should contact the Division to make arrangements for receipt of the body.

Transportation costs are the responsibility of the family or estate.

Memorial Service

In the spring of each year, students who have benefitted from your donation organize a Memorial Service to honor our donors from the previous year. Family members and friends of the donor are invited.

All of us are the final beneficiaries of the knowledge gained by students, physicians, and researchers. Anatomical gifts are central to the education of physicians, dentists, nurses, physical and occupational therapists, and other medical professionals of the future and thus to better patient care, as well as prevention and treatment of medical conditions.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

May I withdraw from this program?

At any time, if your desires change, a dated and signed letter to the Division will withdraw your donation and you will be notified in writing that we have removed your name from the program.

Will I ever be too old for this program?

No, there are no age limits for donation.

Will my family receive a report after the studies are completed?

No.

Will I be paid for this donation?

No, this is against current law.

What is my cost?

The transportation cost to the University and any fee for the processing of the death certificate is the responsibility of the donor. We strongly urge donors to make pre-arrangements with their preferred funeral home.

Will we get the ashes (cremains) back?

Yes, if you request them back before death. It may take up to 2 years for the studies to be completed and the cremains to be returned.

For those families choosing not to have the cremains returned, the cremains will be interred, at the program’s expense, in a crypt at the mausoleum at the Silent Home Cemetery, 1576 Lancaster Ave., Reynoldsburg, OH 43068. Families are welcome to visit any time the cemetery is open.

Additionally, in The Spirit of Women Park (at 10th Ave and Med Center Drive) there is a plaque and tree dedicated in memory of those individuals who made a very personal and unselfish gift to the Anatomy Body Donor Program in support of education and research at the Ohio State University College of Medicine. Friends and family are encouraged to explore the park, relax, reflect, and remember their loved one.

What if my family decides against the donation after my death?

According to the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, only the donor, their Power of Attorney, or Guardian may withdraw from the program prior to death. Once a donor has died, the decision to donate may not be withdrawn.

Does the program accept out-of-state donations?

The Division of Anatomy does not accept out-of-state bequeathals. In the event that death occurs while traveling outside the state of Ohio, our office can provide the family with a listing of medical colleges within the state where death occurred. Should the nearest medical school refuse to accept the body for any reason, disposition of the body would become the responsibility of the family or estate. Alternatively, if you spend extended time in another state (vacationing, visiting relatives, etc.), we suggest that you register as a donor in that state as well.

May I donate my organs, too?

Removal of the organs at the time of death would make whole-body donation impractical. Eyes, however, may be donated and arrangements should be made with the Eye Bank at the same time as your application for body donation.