

# Gifts That Teach

**The Ohio State University  
College of Medicine  
Division of Anatomy  
Body Donation Program  
Columbus, Ohio**



## 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 Donation Program  
279 Hamilton Hall  
1645 Neil Avenue  
Columbus, OH 43210

## Organ Donation:

Lifeline of Ohio  
Procurement Program  
770 Kinnear Road  
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 Donation Program will be contacted and will determine if you meet the donation requirements based on the aforementioned restrictions.

## For information contact:

Division of Anatomy  
279 Hamilton Hall  
1645 Neil Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43210

Phone: (614) 292-4831  
Fax: (614) 292-7659

[BodyDonor@osumc.edu](mailto:BodyDonor@osumc.edu)  
<http://go.osu.edu/bodydonation>

**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.**

## **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, general research, or to further innovative technologies. Examples of how the gift might be used include educational and training programs, (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**

Notify the Division of Anatomy (614-292-4831) of the donor's death. In order to obtain medical information and verify eligibility for the program, the next of kin should have on hand the name and number of the hospital, hospice, or primary care

physician. If the caller is a health facility, please have the medical chart available while calling to verify eligibility (based on the list of restrictions). If the donation is approved, we will arrange transportation for delivery to the program.

We encourage each donor to make alternative arrangements, at the expense of the donor's estate, through a funeral home of your choice in case their donation is not accepted.

When death occurs call The Division of Anatomy (614-292-4831) and press "0" at the prompt. Final acceptance is not determined until time of death, based on the following **restrictions:**

- **Contagious or infectious disease (including, but not limited to, COVID-19 and variants, HIV/ AIDS, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis (TB), MRSA/VRE, C-Diff, Meningitis, Aspergillosis, Ebola, SARS, Smallpox, and CJD/vCJD)**
- **Extreme emaciation or obesity (a donor must weigh at least 80 lbs. and no more than 215 lbs. and have a Body Mass Index (BMI) of at least 16 but not more than 33)**
- **Extreme ascites or edema**
- **Severe, permanent contractures of the extremities**
- **Severe trauma or open wounds (e.g., fractures, lacerations, gangrene)**
- **Recent surgeries that are still healing or death that has occurred during surgery**
- **A body that has been autopsied or embalmed**
- **Organs or tissue donated at the time of death (except the eyes)**
- **Death occurs outside the state of Ohio**
- **Current needs of education, training, and/or research programs for donors**

## **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 Ohio law.

### **What is my cost?**

For all donors accepted into the Program, the Program will cover the following expenses: transporting the donor's remains from the place of death to the Program (within the state of Ohio), the death certificate preparation and filing fee, the donor's cremation, and the return (or interment) of the cremated remains. Any other desired services (e.g., purchasing certified copies of the death certificate or submitting an obituary to a newspaper) are at the expense of the donor's next of kin or estate. We encourage every donor to make alternative arrangements with a funeral home in case their donation is not accepted.

### **Will we get the ashes (cremated remains) 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 Avenue 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 Donation 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.

### **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.

### **Is there a Memorial Service?**

Yes, 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.