Donor Information for Gift of Body Donation

Thank you for your interest in donating your body to Washington University School of Medicine (WUSM). The School appreciates the importance of gifts made by program participants and their families. Through this generosity, participants directly contribute to the advancement of medical education and biomedical research.

The information provided here will assist you in making your decision. If after reviewing this information you wish to donate your body to WUSM, please complete the donor form, make copies for your records, and return the “School-Original Copy” with original signatures to the Department of Neuroscience at the address below. Because wills often are not read until after final disposition of the body, we recommend you talk to your family, physicians and/or attorney about this donation and provide them with copies of your donation form so they may carry out your wishes upon your death.

Note: Not all registered donors will be acceptable donors at the time of their death. WUSM reserves the right to refuse a body after death. Reasons for such refusal include, but may not be limited to a) an autopsy was performed, b) a body was embalmed; c) organs were removed for donation or transplantation (only eyes and brain may be removed after your death); d) communicable disease or infection (i.e. HIV-AIDS, Hepatitis B & C, MRSA); e) trauma to the body; f) recent invasive surgery; g) suicide; and/or h) extreme obesity. You are advised to have an alternate plan in the event your body cannot be accepted.

Attached is the form by which this donation may be made. If you wish to donate your body to WUSM, this form must be completed in its entirety and submit to the program prior to death. We recommend you make copies of the information sheet and the donor form to share with your family or other individuals who will be responsible for your remains.

1. We require the form be: a) typed or legibly printed; b) signed by you in the presence of two (2) witnesses; and c) signed by those two witnesses, who must be over the age of 18.

2. Please provide a brief medical history, prepared by you, which includes illnesses, broken bones, surgeries (for women, number of pregnancies and vaginal and/or C-section births) and the approximate dates when each event occurred. This information can be useful in helping students understand the anatomy.

3. There is no fee to donate your body to WUSM. However, funeral directors and transporters charge for the services they provide. Please inquire about these charges before authorizing someone to transport your body. Your funeral director should call the Body Donor Program (see phone numbers below) to arrange for the delivery of your body.

4. Your body must not be autopsied or embalmed when received by WUSM.

After your body is received by WUSM, no further information will be made available concerning the use or final disposition of your remains. Bodies donated to WUSM are cremated and the cremated remains are not returned to the family. They are scattered in a pastoral setting on property owned by the University which can be visited by family and friends. Because of the diversity of the individual donors, memorialization is left to the family of each donor.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at 314-362-3597 or 1-855-502-7894 (toll free).

Body Donor Program
Washington University School of Medicine
Campus Box 8108
660 South Euclid Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63110-1093

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PLEASE RETAIN A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR RECORDS