

## Whole Body Donation

If you register with a body donation program, please keep in mind that – just as with organ, tissue, and/or eye donations – the condition of the body **at the time of death** may render it ineligible for donation. **For this reason, always have an alternate plan for the final disposition of the body.**

| Willed Body Programs  |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Program   | Web Site / Phone / Notes  | Return Cremains (Y/N) / Timeline            |
| <b>Life Tree Anatomical</b><br>Austin, TX   | <a href="https://www.lifetreeanatomical.com">https://www.lifetreeanatomical.com</a><br>Phone: 512-402-8533<br>Donor bodies are used for training and research in Texas.   | Yes (no charge)<br>1 year or more           |
| <b>Texas A&amp;M Health Science Center</b><br>College of Medicine, Department of Neuroscience and Experimental Therapeutics<br>Bryan, TX                    | <a href="https://medicine.tamu.edu/community/willed-body-program/index.html">https://medicine.tamu.edu/community/willed-body-program/index.html</a><br>Phone: 979-436-0316<br>Cannot accept bodies taller than 6"1. | Yes <b>(\$100)</b> /<br>2 to 5 years        |
| <b>Texas State University Forensic Anthropology Center</b><br>San Marcos, TX  | <a href="https://www.txst.edu/anthropology/facts/donations/body.html">https://www.txst.edu/anthropology/facts/donations/body.html</a><br>Phone: 512-245-1900  | <b>Not applicable</b>                       |
| <b>The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio</b><br>School of Medicine, Department of Cellular and Structural Biology<br>San Antonio, TX | <a href="https://lsom.uthscsa.edu/dcsa/body-donation-program/">https://lsom.uthscsa.edu/dcsa/body-donation-program/</a><br>Phone: 210-567-3900  | Yes <b>(\$250)</b> /<br>6 months to 5 years |
| <b>UT Southwestern Medical Center</b><br>Dallas, TX<br><br>(Provides willed bodies to Dell Medical School in Austin)  | <a href="https://www.utsouthwestern.edu/research/programs/willed-body/">https://www.utsouthwestern.edu/research/programs/willed-body/</a><br>Phone: 214-648-2221; toll-free: 888-905-9991                           | Yes (no charge) /<br>within 18-24 months    |

A list of Willed Body Programs across the U.S. is available at  
<https://anatbd.acb.med.ufl.edu/usprograms/>

### Whole Body Procurement Program / Broker

| Organization  | Web Site / Phone   | Return Cremains (Y/N) / Timeline |              |
|---|--|----------------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Science Care</b> (Phoenix, AZ with facilities in several other states including a lab in Coppell, TX) Currently not accepting Texas donors. <b>See note below.</b> | <a href="https://www.sciencecare.com/">https://www.sciencecare.com/</a><br>Phone: 800-417-3747 | Yes /                            | 3 to 5 weeks |

**NOTE:** Effective April 5, 2024 the Texas Funeral Service Commission (TFSC) enacted an **immediate moratorium** on the **acceptance of decedent donors from out-of-state entities** pursuant to Texas Health and Safety Code chapters 691, 692A, and/or 694. The moratorium remains in place until further notice. This action is in response to the recent transfer of responsibilities from the Anatomical Board of the State of Texas, allowing the TFSC to develop and enforce comprehensive procedures for the ethical receipt, utilization, and transfer of decedent donors. Details at <https://tfsc.texas.gov/Willed%20Body%20Donor%20Program>. Even though Science Care has a facility in Coppell, Texas, they have elected to comply with the moratorium.

**The procurement program listed above permits donation of organs, tissues, and eyes for transplantation into living recipients prior to whole body donation.**

**Please read about the importance of informed consent on the other side of this page.**

## The Importance of Informed Consent

Consumer interest in whole body donation is on the rise. Typically, the public considers body donation an altruistic act that makes body parts, organs, and tissue available for research, bio-product development, and demonstration of new devices.

Research the possibilities. And discuss them with your family because **a crucial element of any organ, tissue, or whole body donation process is the informed consent of the donor and/or the family.** Informed consent should, at an absolute minimum, include a voluntary decision based on **full disclosure of the facts.**

The following questions will help you get the information you need:

1. What professional accreditations, if any, does this organization have?
2. Is this a nonprofit organization?
3. May I be an organ, tissue or eye donor for living recipients before my body is donated for research or education?
4. What information about me must be provided by my family?
5. What costs will my family be required to pay?
6. What diseases or conditions at time of death would make my body unacceptable for donation?
7. Will you accept a body that has been autopsied?
8. Which tissues, organs, and body parts will be allocated?
9. For what purpose will the donated tissue, organs, and body parts be used?
10. If remains are to be used for research, can I or my family specify that the research be limited to a particular disease or condition?
11. What limitations can be placed on the use of tissues, organs, and body parts?
12. What entities will receive which allocated tissues, organs, and body parts?  
(If a recipient is a research program or the purpose is educational, the family should be told the name of the organization, the program, the specific body parts provided, and the location of the organizational recipient.)
13. What parts of the body will be included in cremated remains returned to the family?
14. Who can my family contact for additional information, and how can they be contacted?

Especially if you're considering donation to a whole body procurement organization, be sure to read **The Body Trade: Cashing in on the donated dead**, a 7-part Reuters series (published October, 2017) at

<https://www.reuters.com/investigates/section/usa-bodies/>

Overview article: <https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-bodies-brokers/>

Information compiled by  
**Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Texas**