

Whole Body Donation Programs

Whole Body Procurement Programs / Brokers		
Except for BioGift, programs listed below permit donation of organs, tissues, and eyes for transplantation into living recipients prior to whole body donation.		
Organization	Web Site / Phone	Return Creains (Y/N) / Timeline
Anatomy Gifts Registry (Hanover, MD) (nonprofit)	https://www.anatomygifts.org Phone: 800-300-5433	Yes (\$35) / 4 to 6 weeks
BioGift Anatomical and Surgical Education Center (Portland, OR) (nonprofit)	https://www.biogift.org/ Phone: 866-670-1799	Yes / 8 to 12 weeks
Genesis Legacy (Memphis, TN) (nonprofit partner of Medical Education & Research Institute (https://www.meri.org/))	https://www.genesislegacy.org/ Phone: 877-288-4483	Yes / 6 - 12 months
MedCure (Portland, OR)	https://www.medcure.org Phone: 866-560-2525	Yes / 8 to 12 weeks
Science Care (Phoenix, AZ with additional facilities in CA, CO, FL, IL, PA)	https://www.sciencecare.com/ Phone: 800-417-3747	Yes / 3 to 5 weeks

Willed Body Programs at Universities		
List for entire state of Texas and all other states at https://anatbd.acb.med.ufl.edu/usprograms		
Program	Web Site / Phone / Notes	Return Creains (Y/N) / Timeline
Texas A&M Health Science Center College of Medicine, Department of Neuroscience and Experimental Therapeutics Bryan, TX	https://medicine.tamu.edu/departments/next/willed-body.html Phone: 979-436-0318 A contracted funeral home (specified on donor ID card) will drive to Austin area to pick up the body at no charge. Cannot accept bodies taller than 6'1.	Yes (\$100) / 2 to 5 years
Texas State University Forensic Anthropology Center San Marcos, TX	https://www.txstate.edu/anthropology/facts/donations.html Phone: 512-245-1900 If death occurs at a residence, the family must pay a local funeral home to pick up and refrigerate the body (usually for no more than 24 hours).	Not applicable
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio School of Medicine, Department of Cellular and Structural Biology San Antonio, TX	https://uthscsa.edu/csa/bodydonation/ Phone: 210-567-3900 If death occurs more than 100 miles from Center, family must pay the donation program's contracted funeral home, Olinger-Saenz Mortuary , \$3/mile for additional mileage.	Yes (\$250) / 6 months to 5 years
UT Southwestern Medical Center Dallas, TX (Provides willed bodies to Dell Medical School in Austin)	https://www.utsouthwestern.edu/research/programs/willed-body Phone: 888-905-9991 If death occurs at a residence, the family must pay a local funeral home to pick up and refrigerate the body (24-48 hrs).	Yes (no charge) / within 18-24 months

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.**

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

Information compiled by
Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Texas