



Letter of Instruction for Registrant Family Members

Approved by *Sergei Y. Tolmachev*, Director

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What do you need to do at the time of death?

If you are in the Richland, WA area, call 946-6870. If you are out of the Richland, WA area, or if you are calling outside of business hours (8 am to 5 pm), call our toll free line, 1-800-375-9317. The toll free telephone number is attended 24 hours a day. The answering service or receptionist will forward your message immediately to one of the designated staff members to respond. If death is imminent, and the donor, family member, or caregiver wishes to contact the Registries beforehand for instruction, the Registries will accommodate these requests.

Will someone from the Registries contact you?

Yes, you will receive a telephone call from a Registries staff person. This person will usually handle all of the arrangements and be your primary contact throughout the process. There may be a waiting period while the Registries makes arrangements with hospital staff, caregivers and/or funeral home personnel. If the donor passes away during the night, you may not receive a call until the following day. It is important that a telephone number, where the family or designated spokesperson can be reached, be left with the answering service or receptionist. The Registries welcomes all of your questions and concerns at any time, and will make every effort to contact you as soon as possible.

What happens next?

A Registries staff person will contact the attending physician, caregiver, or funeral home where the donor is located. Instructions will be given for preparation and retrieval of tissues at the time of autopsy, or, in the case of whole body donation, the care and transport of the donor to our facility. All preparations and coordination of these activities will be handled for you by the Registries staff member.

What happens if the donor wishes to be cremated?

Whole Body Donors

A whole body donor wills his/her entire body to the USTUR. Therefore, the donor cannot be returned for burial or cremation. However, the USTUR can, upon request, return a small portion of bone ash to the family.

Partial Body Donors

A partial body donor wills only a part of his/her body to the USTUR. Respecting the will of the donor, for convenience of all parties involved, the USTUR will make arrangements for donor's autopsy to be performed locally, at the municipality where the donor passes away, and bears all associated costs. Following autopsy, the donor's body will be returned to the family for burial and funeral services. The USTUR is not liable for the latter. As a grant-funded research center, the USTUR cannot absorb costs associated with internment, including cremation, and/or services, and cannot disburse any expenses per families' request.