Contact Information
Willed Body Program
College of Medical Sciences
Washington State University
PO Box 1495
Spokane, WA 99210-1495
509-368-6600
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email: wsu.willedbody@wsu.edu
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Donation of one’s body for the purpose of medical education is a thoughtful and generous gift. Anatomy is one of the most important foundational subjects for students aspiring to become physicians, dentists, and allied health professionals, and study of the human body provides the basis for understanding structure, function, and disease. Nothing can surpass the experience of learning anatomy from real human bodies. Body donation is a perpetual gift because students who train at WSU will carry their knowledge to all parts of the world and pass the knowledge on to others who learn from them. Because of the generosity of our donors, the Willed Body Program has been able to provide students with this unique and priceless learning experience since 1972.

To help those interested in anatomical donation, we have compiled a list of frequently asked questions. Since it is difficult to create a truly exhaustive list, we welcome your questions by phone at 509-368-6600 or by email at wsu.willedbody@wsu.edu.

“As a first year medical student, you already feel the enormous weight of your obligation to care for and serve your community and fellow human beings. I was incredibly inspired by the individuals who donated their bodies to our training—it was a comfort to think that our donors had faith in my ability to learn and valued my education so much that they were willing to personally teach me the foundation of everything I will do as a doctor. I will always remember this gift and will be paying it forward to society for the rest of my career.” —Julie, first-year medical student
Who can donate their body to the Willed Body Program?

Any person 18 years of age or older who is competent to make end of life decisions can donate their body to the Willed Body Program. Please indicate your wishes on the final interment form when you return your next of kin choose to donate your organs (other than corneas) upon your death, then whole organ donation is not binding and does not take precedence over organ donation. However, if you or your next of kin donate your body, then our program will assume responsibility for the costs associated with donating a body, which is a contribution to medical and health care education.

May I donate at the time of death or still be able to donate my body?

Our studies are usually completed in one to four years. After that time, the next of kin have access to the body and they are trained and expected to follow the highest standards of professionalism. Our program pays for these costs, and they are the responsibility of the family or estate (see the FAQ above: Are there any costs involved in donating my body?).

Can I have a funeral service with my body present? Of course, the family may still arrange a funeral service with your body present. Of course, the family may still arrange a funeral service with your body present. If the body is returned to the legal next of kin, please indicate your wishes on the final interment form when you return your next of kin choose to donate your organs (other than corneas) upon your death, then whole organ donation is not binding and does not take precedence over organ donation. However, if you or your next of kin donate your body, then our program will assume responsibility for the costs associated with donating a body, which is a contribution to medical and health care education.

What happens to my body after your studies are completed?

If the body is within the Pullman/Moscow or Clarkston/Lewiston areas, our funeral directors will normally make the first response at the time of death and transport the body to a funeral home in your area, and your next of kin or estate would be responsible for the costs involved with removal, storage, and transportation of the body to our funeral directors.

What should I consider when making my donation decision?

The donation forms are not binding documents, only statements of your wishes and desires. You may revoke or modify the forms at any time by contacting our office in writing.

What if I die in another state outside the Northwest or in another country?

You can also contact a donation program in that state or country.

How do I enroll in the program to become a donor?

To request the necessary forms, write, call, or email:

Willed Body Program
College of Medical Sciences
Washington State University
PO Box 1495
Spokane, WA 99210-1495
509-358-4655
willedbody@wsu.edu
website: willedbody.wsu.edu

The forms may also be downloaded at willedbody.wsu.edu

In our program, we will prepare the most complete forms in our office and make copies for yourself, your family, your physician, and others who need to be informed about your final arrangements. After we return your completed paperwork we will send you an identification card to be carried in your wallet or purse.

How is my body transported to the Willed Body Program?

Before you die, the body is returned to the local funeral home (in which case transportation to Pullman occurs). In these cases, the deceased is directly our funeral directors in Pullman, Washington. In either case, our program cannot pay for these costs, and they are the responsibility of the family or estate (see the FAQ above: Are there any costs involved in donating my body?).

Who can donate their body to the Willed Body Program?

Any person 18 years of age or older who is competent to make end of life decisions can donate their body to the Willed Body Program. Some bodies are used for anatomical study at Washington State University. Some bodies are used for anatomical study at Washington State University. Our program pays for these costs, and they are the responsibility of the family or estate (see the FAQ above: Are there any costs involved in donating my body?).

May I still have a funeral service after my body is cremated? Since your body is behaving as if it were dead (which is necessary to have a funeral home or transportation service in your area make the first response at the time of death, we urge you to have alternate arrangements in place and clearly explained to your final arrangements. That is, the decision to accept or decline a body can only be made at the time of death since the cause of death or condition of the body may render the body unsuitable for donation. We will offer to provide one of our donation forms to your family, your physician, and others who need to be informed about your final arrangements. After we return your completed paperwork we will send you an identification card to be carried in your wallet or purse.