



## Forensic Anthropology Center University of Tennessee Body Donation Program Policy



The donation of a person's body after death is a tremendous gift. We are grateful for everyone who expresses an interest in body donation. We appreciate your attention to the following.

1. Unlike medical schools, we **do not** return remains to the family. The skeletal remains are a very important component to our research and teaching program. The first donation made to our program in 1981 continues to be studied by researchers today.
2. We reserve the right to decline donations of individuals who have some form of infectious disease such as HIV, tuberculosis, hepatitis of any kind, or antibiotic resistant infections such as MRSA, even if contracted after donation is arranged.
3. Donors with an infectious disease who still wish to donate may do so by choosing to have their remains cremated. We have a growing collection of cremains that provides an invaluable learning resource. People choosing this option should contact us prior to making arrangements. This allows us to work with the crematory involved to ensure the remains are not pulverized. The family must assume responsibility for the arrangement and cost of cremation.
4. We also reserve the right to decline a donation if our facility is at capacity. In case of denial by the University, alternate final arrangements should be discussed by the donor and/or the family.
5. We will arrange transportation to our facility if the deceased is located within the state of Tennessee **and** within 100 miles from Knoxville. Outside the state of Tennessee or more than 100 miles from Knoxville, the donor and/or the donor's family must make arrangements for the transportation of the body to our facility and assume responsibility for any associated costs.
6. We are unable to transport from a private residence or nursing home facility. The donor's family must arrange for transportation and assume responsibility for the cost. We will transport a body from a hospital, funeral home, forensic center, or some healthcare facilities that are within the geographic limits stated above.
7. We need to have signed donation documents or releases prior to transporting. This may be a faxed copy, but the original must be sent as soon as possible. Your donation paperwork will not be complete until originals are returned.
8. Pre-donor paperwork needs to be returned to the Forensic Anthropology Center at the time of completion in order for a file to be established. Changes of address or medical status should be sent to keep donor files up to date.
9. Pre-donor paperwork needs 2 witnesses to verify your signature, but does not need to be notarized.
10. We do not perform autopsies to determine cause of death on donations to our program.

If you have any questions or concerns that have not been addressed in this letter, please feel free to contact us at 865-974-4408 or [donateinfo@utk.edu](mailto:donateinfo@utk.edu).