Instructions for arranging brain donation

The brain resource program has nurses on call 24 hours a day to assist with arrangements. The procedure to follow at the time of death is outlined below.

Call UAB Paging at (205) 934-3411 and request that the Brain Donation Program be paged. You will need to tell the operator if you are calling long-distance.

⇒ If a nurse does not call you back within 15 minutes, call UAB Paging and ask for the Neurology attending on call to be paged.

A nurse will call you back. She will ask if you still want to arrange for your loved-one’s brain to be donated. She will also ask for the location of the body. The body has to have identification on it; if there is no hospital or nursing home bracelet, simply write the name and date of birth on a piece of paper and tape it to his or her wrist.

A physician will then call you to get your verbal permission to perform an autopsy. You will need to have two witnesses present who can hear you provide consent.

The nurse will make the arrangements to have the body transported to UAB. The procedure will take about two hours. Afterwards the body will be taken to the funeral home of your choice. If you have further questions during the process you may page the nurse again to speak with her.

We want to make this process as easy as possible on you and your family members. Thank you for your help in our fight to find a cure for Alzheimer’s disease.