



**ANATOMICAL DONOR PROGRAM
(Total Willed Body Program)
UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM**

Laura F. Cotlin, PhD, Director
University of Alabama School of Medicine
1720 2nd Ave South, VH Box 302
Birmingham, AL 35294-0019
TEL: 205-934-4494
FAX: 205-975-9956

POLICY STATEMENT

Alabama State Law allows a person to indicate the wish to donate his/her body for medical education. It is important that potential donors make their intentions known to their family and others who could be survivors and to obtain their agreement. *The donor must have a dedication form filed with the Anatomical Donor Program in order for his/her body to be accepted.* The closest related survivor has the authority to make or deny the donation.

The Program accepts bodies for anatomical study and educational use only. Occasionally a body may be used for research or disease processes. We will not issue reports or make statements regarding the pathology observed in bodies undergoing study.

The Program requires that the basic costs for accepting a dedicated body be paid by the survivors or the donor's estate. These costs cover transportation from the site of death, embalming, filing of death certificate and maintenance of the body during study, cremation and interment or return of remains.

Donors with cancer and surgeries are still **accepted** for donation. Only those with contagious or infectious diseases are not useable for anatomical study. Below are some examples of persons ineligible for donation.

The Anatomical Donor Program will not accept any body under any of the following circumstance(s):

1. Donor did not indicate a desire to donate and does not have a dedication form on file.
2. Failure of survivors to agree on donation.
3. Death is caused by or at the time of death the donor has:
 - Suicide, homicide or severe trauma (motor vehicle accident, drowning, burning)
 - an infectious disease such as AIDS, Hepatitis, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, Tuberculosis
 - an infection such as MRSA, VRE or Sepsis
 - moderate or severe jaundice
 - severe edema
 - visible lesions (bed sores)
 - total amputation of one or more limbs, etc.
4. Autopsy has been performed.
5. Vital organs have been removed for transplantation.
6. Weight exceeds 225 lbs.

Exception: Donors who have donated their brains to the Brain Resource Program for the study of Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease or Huntington's chorea will be accepted providing they have filed with both programs prior to death.

Disclaimer: Donors must have a contingency plan for disposition of your body in the event that the UAB Anatomical Donor Program cannot accept your donation.

A body must be received into the Program for embalming no later than 8 hours of death. If a death is not reported within a reasonable period due to circumstances beyond the caregiver's control, thus prohibiting adequate embalming and preservation procedures to be carried out the Program will accept a registered donor with the understanding that the body will be cremated immediately. The donor's estate or survivors will be responsible for all costs of transportation, cremation, interment or shipping of remains. If donor pre-paid and for any reason was not donated, the pre-payment is then refunded to the next of kin. Certain documentation or proof may be required for the refund. Death certificate, proof of relationship to donor, and or power of attorney are a minimum of documentation or documents required.

All **unclaimed bodies** offered by the State are embalmed and held for 60 days prior to study. All other bodies may be used in a course or special project immediately upon receipt. Studies are usually completed within twelve months but in some instances may take up to two years.

All bodies are cremated upon completion of study -- **there are no exceptions.** Ashes will be buried in the University cemetery located in Cook Springs, Alabama, unless the survivors have made a request for return at the time of donation. After two (2) years, unclaimed cremains will be interred at the UAB Memorial Garden at Cook Springs.

Survivors wishing to hold a private memorial service should make their own arrangements. Each year our medical students put together a special memorial service to honor all donors who donated the previous year. The next-of-kin listed on the dedication form will receive an invitation. It is up to that next-of-kin to notify the rest of the family. All family and friends are welcome.

Sincerely,



Laura F. Cotlin, PhD
Director, UAB Anatomical Donor Program