

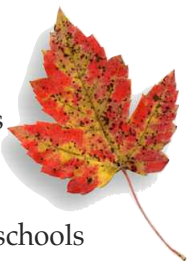
How to Donate Your Body for Medical Science

About 1,500,000 Americans die each year. From that number, few are donated to supply the 5,000+ bodies that are needed for training tomorrow's workers in the field of medical science.

In past years, bodies for medical study were acquired by universities through default, so to speak. In most states, the bodies of indigents that were otherwise unwanted and unclaimed by relatives, were allocated by law to medical institutions. However, this arrangement has two disadvantages. Today, most people would rather choose the way their bodies are handled after death. Nearly everyone can afford conventional funeral procedures, and various social welfare programs take care of the few who need financial assistance. Secondly, it is better social policy to allow people to decide for themselves to donate their bodies to medical science.

Your Decision

Fortunately, the shortage of bodies for study is being overcome as an ever-increasing number of people donate their bodies after death to schools where dedicated people are working to preserve health and prolong life. In particular, the bodies donated to Northern Illinois University are used to train physical therapists and other health profession students. The students who take these classes will become professional physical therapists or go on for further study to become physicians or health educators.



Many people donate parts of their bodies to eye, bone, artery, skin, and cartilage banks. However, more and more people feel they can render a greater service to their fellow men and women by the act of donating their entire body after death for the advancement of medical science.

To facilitate this procedure, most states enacted legislation in the 1880s clarifying the right of a person to bequeath his or her body after death for the promotion of medical science. For example, in 1881, New York passed a statute which says, "A person has the right to direct the manner in which his body shall be disposed of after death." No states have laws prohibiting or interfering with the donation of bodies to schools for medical education.

Your decision to leave your body for use in medical research and teaching has probably been very carefully thought out. At an appropriate time, you should discuss your decision frankly with your next-of-kin.

The Bequest

How do you donate your body to medical science? The bequest procedure is a simple one. Fill out the accompanying **Declaration of Consent** form stating that your body shall go to Northern Illinois University. You may incorporate this into your will, but this is not necessary.

If you do incorporate the bequest in your will, it is strongly recommended that you do not place the will in a safety deposit box because legal restrictions placed on the opening of such boxes frequently result in a delay of a week or more. If you do wish to have your

bequest placed in your will, keep a copy of it at home or in a lawyer's office.

Two copies of a Declaration of Consent form are provided with this brochure and are required in addition to the use of a will. You may keep one copy and send the second to the office of the Department of Biological Sciences.

Costs

Northern Illinois University will assume all costs for body preparation and will arrange for and pay cremation costs. All other costs are assumed by the family or estate. If a funeral or memorial service is held, the family must pay these expenses, and the funeral director is required to contact the office of Biological Sciences regarding embalming and transportation.

Prior arrangements must be made by the donor with a local funeral director for dealing with the body at the time of death. Three types of arrangements must be made:

- 1) At the time of death, the body must be transported to a suitable holding location. This is typically a funeral home or coroners morgue that has refrigeration facilities.
- 2) All official documents (death certificate signed by a physician and Permission to Cremate form) must be filed and must accompany the body prior to transport to Northern Illinois University.
- 3) The body must be transported to the funeral home of our designated agent in Dekalb.



Prior arrangements should be made with a local funeral director to perform these tasks. Prior to transport of the body the local funeral director should contact the Department of Biological Sciences at Northern Illinois for instructions. **The costs for the services listed above or any other special services (such as memorial services etc.) must be paid by the donor's estate.**

Burial

Remaining family often want to be reassured about burial procedures. It generally takes about one year after donation for return of the donor ashes, however, longer time periods are possible. After use, the school will transport the remains to a contracted crematory where the remains will be cremated. Should the family desire that the cremated remains be returned for burial, **arrangements for this may also be made by filling out the address on the Declaration of Consent for Gift of a Body form. The remains will be shipped in a hermetically sealed container, at a cost of \$50 to the estate.** This cost should be sent to the Department of Biological Sciences at Northern Illinois University at the time the application is returned to the department.

Change of Residence

A change of residence may occur after filing the Declaration of Consent for Gift of a Body form. At that time please notify us of the address change. If the residence is at a distance outside a 100 mile radius from Dekalb the donor may wish to terminate this

agreement given that the cost of transporting the body may be prohibitive.

Alternative Arrangements

There are instances where a body may not be suitable for use by the university. You should make alternative arrangements for the disposition of your body in the event that it is not acceptable for medical study. Some reasons that the university will decline a body include (but are not limited to): autopsy, decomposition, contagious disease, mutilation, or removal of organs and/or tissue for transplantation. The donor may elect to donate their eyes to an organ bank, however, **no other organs or tissues can be donated.** The university will determine the acceptability of the body at the time of the donor's death.



Northern Illinois University
Department of Biological Sciences
DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2861
(815) 753-1735

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www.niu.edu 11/08.

Donating Your Body for Medical Science; A Guide



Department of Biological Sciences



**NORTHERN ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY**

Suggestions to Donor

Discuss your wishes with your family

It is important that your family understand your plans, both in deference to their feelings, and to assure that they will carry out your wishes. Make arrangements with a local funeral director to remove the body at the time of death, file the appropriate paperwork, call the Department of Biological Sciences the next day, and transport the body to DeKalb.

Complete the certificates

There are two copies of this certificate. Complete each certificate and return one copy to Northern Illinois University, Department of Biological Sciences. This copy must be on file with Northern Illinois University prior to your death. Retain the other copy for your files. If a member of your family wishes to have the cremated remains returned, please fill out the address listed on the front of this form. If this portion of the form is left blank, the remains will be disposed of by the crematory in a common grave designated for this purpose.

Carry a wallet card

Upon receiving the properly completed and signed gift form, Northern Illinois University will mail you a card to carry in your wallet or purse.

Procedure at the Time of Death

(Guidance to Survivors)

Telephone

Northern Illinois University's Department of Biological Sciences operates between the hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office in the Department of Biological Sciences may be contacted at (815) 753-1753.

The possibility always exists that an individual who has donated his or her body to our program may pass away late at night. In such instances it is normal procedure for the family or individuals in charge to contact the designated funeral director or coroner and arrange to have the deceased removed to a suitable refrigerated holding area until the next day and file the appropriate paperwork as described in the instructions above. The cost of these services is paid by the donor's estate.

Informed Consent

All bodies donated to Northern Illinois University are used for purposes of medical teaching and study. Northern Illinois University reserves the right to determine the use and distribution of all donated remains. Any substances that may be derived, developed, or created from those remains may be used in any manner deemed appropriate by the university without permission from or compensation to you, your family, or your agents. With respect to such tissue, matter, or substances, the university shall use its best efforts at all times to protect your identity from disclosure.

Declaration of Consent for Gift of a Body

Name _____
First Middle Last

I hereby direct that my body be remanded, upon my death, to:

Northern Illinois University
Department of Biological Sciences
DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2861
(815) 753-1753

I further direct that Northern Illinois University and its agents shall have access to my medical records upon request. Northern Illinois University reserves the right to decline bodies not suitable for medical study or research. If my body is not acceptable, the responsibility for and cost of disposition of the body will be borne by my family or estate (See "Alternative Arrangements" on reverse).

Witnesses

(May be friends or neighbors, but not relatives)

SIGNED _____

Address _____

SIGNED _____

Address _____

Donor

SIGNED _____

Address _____

Date _____

Social Security Number _____

Telephone Number () _____

Family Endorsements

We understand and support the intent indicated in this Certificate.

SIGNATURE and Relationship

Date

Disposition of Cremains

Following use of the body by Northern Illinois University, I wish to have the cremated remains returned to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number () _____

Please enclose a check for \$50.00 made out to Northern Illinois University with this application.