



Jerry M. Wallace  
School of Osteopathic Medicine

The Anatomical Gift Program is a service of Campbell University Jerry M. Wallace School of Osteopathic Medicine (CUSOM) for medical science education.

Thank you for your interest in making an anatomical gift. This document contains information about donating your body (or that of a loved one) for use in medical education through our program. We are committed to working closely with donor families to ensure each donation proceeds smoothly, the donation is accepted in a thoughtful and respectful manner, and the wishes of the departed and his or her family are honored wherever possible. If you have questions that are not answered here, please contact an Anatomical Gifts Representative at 910-893-1789 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

We sincerely appreciate your interest in Anatomical Gifts Program at CUSOM which benefits the medical education of our students.

**Donation criteria:**

A member of our staff will review the following information with the donor's physician at the time of death:

- The body has not been badly damaged by accident, suicide, or very invasive surgery, making it unsuitable for anatomical study
- The body is no more than three days after death at the time of donation
- The body has not been autopsied
- The body is free of any blood contaminants and staph (i.e., MRSA, Hepatitis, Sepsis, HIV)
- The body is in good condition (no recent surgeries where the body hasn't healed)
- The body weighs no more than 250 and no less than 100 pounds for men
- The body weighs no more than 200 and no less than 100 pounds for women
- The body was not in medical isolation
- Organs (except for eyes) have not been removed at the time of death
- The body displayed no symptoms of jaundice
- The body is under 6'5" in height



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**Will my family be provided a report on disease conditions found in my body?**

Such a report would require an autopsy. Bodies donated to the program are used for teaching about the structure of the body.

**Is a Uniform Donor Card necessary?**

We will accept your body without this card. The card simply serves to alert health care providers and your family that you wish to donate your body to our Anatomical Gifts Program.

**How will my body be used?**

The majority of the bodies donated to us are used for teaching anatomy (body structure) to medical students and allied health students. Surgical residents and physicians use cadavers to review anatomy or to develop new surgical procedures. In every case, the Anatomical Gifts Program retains responsibility for the respectful use and maintenance of the body.

**If I complete the Uniform Donor Card, is it guaranteed that the Anatomical Gifts Program will accept my body?**

Acceptance depends chiefly upon whether the body will be suitable as a teaching model. The Anatomical Gifts Program has the right to decline a body that it feels is unsuitable for its use.

**If my death should occur at a great distance from the CUSOM or the CUSOM is unable to accept my body, will it be offered to another medical school?**

Stating on your donor card that your preferred school is CUSOM does not make it exclusive. The physician in attendance at the time of death may arrange for its use at another medical school.

**Does the Anatomical Gifts Program accept bodies from out of state?**

The Anatomical Gifts Program will not accept donations from out of state, but we can help guide you to resources within your region.

**When should a family member or physician notify the Anatomical Gifts Program of my death?**

The program should be notified of the death as soon as possible. If the death occurs during normal working hours (Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM), please call 910-893-1789. If the death occurs at night, please contact us first thing the following morning.

**Do you have an on-call service that is open on weekend?.**

We ask for families to involve a funeral home of their preference which has cold storage, in the event the death occurs in the evening or on a weekend. The funeral home should hold the body until a family member can call us so. Our staff will then assess if we are able to accept the body donation. If we are not able to accept the body, the family can proceed with arrangements with the funeral home.

**What is the procedure for donating my body to CUSOM after death?**

Family members may arrange a funeral if they wish to have one before the body is transported to us. Because of our unique needs regarding the condition of the body, we require a slight change in the embalming process. The family's funeral home should therefore contact our director for specific instructions before doing any embalming. Other details are as follows:

1. Determination as to whether the gift is acceptable (by asking a few questions about the cause of death and the condition of the body).
2. Once the donation is accepted, the department will request that a signed and witnessed consent form be completed by a family member in addition to the consent form signed by the donor.

3. Transportation (in-state transport) is arranged by healthcare facility by contacting the CUSOM Anatomical Gifts representative.

### **Is a death certificate required?**

When we accept a body, we must also receive a copy of the death certificate with the necessary information filled in by the attending physician.

### **What if my doctor wants to do an autopsy?**

When the cause of death is unclear, an autopsy may make an important contribution to medical science. The choice between permitting the autopsy and donating the body to the program must be made by the family. The decision to permit an autopsy will not be opposed by the program, but we cannot then accept the body.

### **How will my body be stored?**

Bodies are stored at CUSOM facilities. They are only used by faculty and students for research and teaching purposes, and are not displayed outside of this environment.

### **What will happen to the remains of my body?**

Upon completion of use, all remains are cremated. The cremated remains may be returned (at the family's request) to the family or to a funeral home. The family may also request that the program make respectful disposition of the remains. There is no charge for the cremation or the return.

### **If my organs are donated, does my body still qualify for our Anatomical Gifts Program?**

No, with the exception of the eyes. Organ donation and body donation are totally separate programs with very different goals and different requirements. We encourage people to be



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organ donors, but that does rule out being a whole-body donor. Many of our donors are people who, for one reason or another, were not suitable candidates for organ donation. Eyes may be donated by whole-body donors. For information on eye donation, contact *The North Carolina Eye Bank, Inc., 3900 Westpoint Boulevard, Suite F, Winston-Salem, North Carolina 27103; phone (336) 765-0932 or (800) 552-9956.*