



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. However, because our program has grown considerably over the last several years while our financial resources have not, we have had to initiate several new policies. We are also requesting more detailed biological information as well as a photograph. We appreciate your attention to these.

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 cost of cremation.
4. We will arrange transportation to our facility if the deceased is located within the state of Tennessee **and** within 200 miles of Knoxville. Outside the state of Tennessee or more than 200 miles from Knoxville, the donor or the donor's family must make arrangements for the transportation of the body.
5. We are unable to transport from a private residence. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Pre-donor paperwork needs 2 witnesses to verify your signature, but does not need to be notarized.

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.