

Wisconsin Body Donation Options

A variety of whole body donation programs are available in Wisconsin. Some of these programs are national programs that will accept bodies from Wisconsin and fly them to their study destinations and then fly cremains back to family members once study is completed. Each of the programs listed have differing requirements and these may change over time. Most, but not all, require signing up prior to the death. When attempting to donate after a death has occurred it is important that the next-of-kin is available to sign a consent form. Please contact the programs directly to obtain all current information. This listing is merely to make you aware of the variety of programs available to assist families at low or no cost arrangements.

Science Care -- when they are in hard straights. Look it up on google. It is a whole body donation program that PH 800 417-3747

1) you can call after death

2) accepts persons with cancer and other diseases

**3) pays all charges for transport of the body and then returns the cremated remains to the family. This only works for those who have a next of kin that can sign a release, but it may help for some of your families.

Research for Life – whole body donation, all costs covered, ends with a no-cost cremation. Has on line forms www.research-for-life.org Forms must be filled out prior to acceptance. Phone: 1-800-229-3244 answered 24hrs/day. Is located in phoenix AZ.

Implant Recycling

<http://www.implantrecycling.com/home.html>

Implant recycling is the company that many crematories use for recycling medical implants, money goes to them or to charity.

Restore Life – 423-631-0067 – whole body donation.

Non-Profit – orthopedic research, provide urn, transport of body, 3 certified death certificates, Age limit is 80 yo, no HIV +, HEP + , Mad cow, or IV drug use, multiple bedsores, over 250 lbs.

LifeLegacy Foundation – .

Pre-Registered:

1. LifeLegacy is notified: 1-888-774-4438

2. LifeLegacy arranges for transportation.

NOT Pre-Registered:

Have the family member or next-of-kin most familiar with the medial and social history of the prospective donor contact LifeLegacy as soon as possible – time is of the essence:

1-888-774-4438 LifeLegacy will conduct an interview to determine donation acceptance

The donor is cremated at a licensed crematorium. The family receives cremated remains by registered mail in approximately 4 to 8 weeks of donation. Most people are

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able to donate their body regardless of their disease or medical conditions. Reasons a person may not be eligible for body donation may include the presence of one or more of these conditions at the time of death:

- *Hepatitis B, C or active hepatitis A*
- *A systemic blood infection*
- *Severely under or overweight for your height*
- *HIV or AIDS*

Donating your body through LifeLegacy incurs no cost to the donor or their family. The costs covered include transportation from the place of death to LifeLegacy, cremation, sending cremated remains to family and a letter of benefit regarding the donation (if requested).

Body Donation Program at the University of Wisconsin

A Body Donation Form is available that when properly executed becomes a legal document. The Program does not accept donations from persons under the allowed age. A donor may revoke the gift at any time by notifying the Program and destroying the donation form. The Body Donor Program only accepts bodies that have died in Wisconsin. Bodies will be accepted from Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota or UP Michigan, but the family must assume all funeral home expenses, including the cost of transporting the body to Wisconsin. Additional questions will be answered by contacting the Body Donor Coordinator at **608-262-2888** on weekdays. ([click here for contact details](#))

We cannot accept mutilated bodies (e.g., automobile accidents), bodies that have unhealed major surgery prior to death or have been autopsied, or from which major organs have been removed/donated. Other conditions that may cause a body to be refused include obesity, malnutrition, excessive edema, hepatitis, jaundice and infectious diseases that may put recipients at risk. Due to changes in a person's health over time, the decision to accept or refuse a body will be made at the time of death by the UW Mortician, and not at the time the donor signs the registration form. Registration does not constitute acceptance in advance.

Program morticians do not make removals from private residences and most nursing homes. If death occurs in a private setting, the family must contact a local funeral home to make the removal and hold the remains until our mortician arrives. However, we are able to make removals if death occurs at a hospital facility which has a morgue.

Once we have completed the study of a body, the remains are cremated. **Ashes will be returned** if designated on the form provided. Normally it is a year to two before cremains are ready to be returned. Ashes not returned are buried on University property in an unmarked grave. Ashes not requested cannot be retrieved. The University does not maintain gravesites.

Families may hold funeral services before we receive the body. Any funeral home expenses are the responsibility of the family, including paperwork if performed by the local funeral director.

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What conditions will result in a donation being declined?

Individuals who have diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B or C, or Prion diseases. Individuals who are morbidly obese or emaciated, or whose remains have been mutilated or are decomposing. Individuals who have donated their organs for transplantation, with the exception of the eyes, cannot be accepted because major blood vessels and other organs have been disrupted. Individuals who have extensive organ destruction from cancer or other diseases are not appropriate for donation. Individuals that have been autopsied cannot be accepted.

In a majority of cases, **transportation costs are assumed by the Body Donation Program.** In cases of severe weather or where both morticians are already involved in transporting a body to Madison, it may be necessary for the body to be held by a local funeral home until our mortician can travel to the site. In these cases, the family or other individual responsible for the donor's affairs must assume these interim costs.

MCW : Medical College of Wisconsin Anatomical Gift Registry

Anatomical Gift Registry

Medical College of Wisconsin
Dept. of Cell Biology, Neurobiology & Anatomy
8701 Watertown Plank Road
Milwaukee, WI 53226
(414) 955-8261
(414) 955-6517 (fax)

You must register by submitting a completed form provided on this website or you may also have a packet mailed to you by calling us directly at (414) 955-8261 or [e-mailing us](#). Our office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (excluding major holidays). Once we have received your completed form, your name will be added to the registry.

The Anatomical Gift Registry at the Medical College of Wisconsin is a non-profit program; therefore, we require the donor's estate or family to pay any

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administrative fees and costs. **There is a single fee**, billed to the next of kin (after donation) that covers the following:

- **Transporting remains to the Medical College of Wisconsin**
- Filing the death certificate
- Cremation permit
- Cremation

You can find out the **current fees by calling us at (414) 955-8261** during regular business hours.

Acceptance of an anatomical gift is contingent upon the decision of the Medical College of Wisconsin at the time of death of the donor. Autopsy, embalming, height and weight disproportion, advanced decomposition and history of contagious disease (Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS) are some of the reasons we cannot accept a donor. The Medical College of Wisconsin reserves the right, at any time, to decline a particular donor.

Although most anatomical donations are accepted, to prevent misunderstandings and disappointment after your death, we urge you to have alternative arrangements in place and clearly explained to your family in the event that your donation is declined.

*Note: There are some cases when a body may not be suitable for use by these medical schools or research centers. Some of these conditions include recent surgery, extreme obesity, or a history of certain diseases. **Have a backup plan***