

**INFORMATION for DONATION of BODIES to the  
BODY DONOR PROGRAM at the  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH  
UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN-MADISON  
1300 University Avenue Madison, WI 53706**

**PLEASE FOLLOW THESE INSTRUCTIONS:**

The information requested on this form is state-mandated for use on the original certificate of death, and must be completely filled in. Consider carefully whether this program is appropriate for you and your family. If so, a registration form/s for making the declaration of the gift is/are enclosed. The form/s should be executed in triplicate and signed by two witnesses. **Return the white copy to the Body Donor Program; and give the yellow copy to your next-of-kin or personal executor.** A letter will be mailed to confirm receipt of the white copy. The donor card can be signed and carried by the donor as an indication of donation, but the **card (or lack of) neither validates nor invalidates your registration.**

Wisconsin Law provides that a person, while living, may arrange to donate her/his body to a medical school, provided such gift is for educational purposes. The Body Donor Program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health depends heavily upon donors for the continued high level of instruction available to medical and other health professions students here. We are deeply grateful to those whose interest in furthering medical education in Wisconsin leads them to make this donation.

The enclosed registration forms are legal documents when properly executed. The Department does not accept donations from persons under legal age. A donor may revoke the gift at any time by notifying the Department and destroying the donation forms. 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 week days.

**At the time of death,** the next-of-kin or caretaker should notify the Body Donor Program as soon as possible by telephone (**608/262-2800 or 608/262-2888 weekdays**). The time factor is important. After hours, weekends and holidays, call **608/262-2800 only regarding a death.** If no answer, please leave a message. The mortician on call may also be paged by calling the UW Message Center at 608/262-2122. **Upon notification of a death, our departmental mortician, Robert Schlotthauer will accept or refuse the body based on its physical condition and cause of death.** If accepted, arrangements will be made for transportation by our morticians to Madison. A funeral service may be held before the body is released to the Body Donor Program. If a service is desired or if transportation is delayed (see No. 4, back page), the next-of-kin should call a local funeral home to arrange for the service. The Body Donor Program should be notified prior to any embalming.

The bodies received by the Donor Program are used for educational purposes only - - no research is offered. We cannot furnish medical reports on any donor remains. If such information is crucial, arrangements should be made for an autopsy with subsequent disposition of the body by the family. Moreover, the Body Donor Program is not involved in the donation of specific organs. Autopsied bodies and bodies from which major organs have been removed for transplant cannot be used in our educational programs. However, bodies from which eyes have been removed for corneal transplants are acceptable.

**NOTE:** Inquiries about donation of corneas may be directed to 608/233-2354, Eyebank-Eye Clinic, c/o University Hospital, 600 Highland Avenue, Madison, WI 53792.

## **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS OF THE BODY DONOR PROGRAM**

**The Program morticians may refuse the gift if the body is not suitable for educational purposes. In that event, donors should inform their executor of an alternate backup plan for disposition of their body (Plan A and Plan B). Note No.1 below.**

- 1) Occasionally we must refuse a donor's body in the following situations:** 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.**
- 2) We accept bodies only from those persons who have made prearrangements by filing forms in advance with our Program.**
- 3) 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.**
- 4) On occasion, our departmental mortician is unable to immediately remove the body from the place of death (local mortuary or hospital) due to distance, weather, or another commitment. In those instances (see#3), interim funeral home expenses are the responsibility of the family. See #5.**
- 5) 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.**
- 6) The UW School of Medicine and Public Health does not charge donor families for our services.**
- 7) 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.**
- 8) Each year, students who have studied and learned from the donors conduct a memorial service to recognize the gift of the donor. You will be notified by mail about this memorial service.**