

Form A: Information on Whole Body Bequeathal

Completion of this Form A will indicate an interest and desire in the posthumous donation of one's body. This form does not constitute a registration or acceptance into Western University's Body Bequeathal Program as the eligibility of each potential donor is assessed after their death has occurred. Acceptance criteria can be fluid and changes with the University's current research and teaching needs.

Here are the steps you can take to prepare for the possibility of donation to Western University's body bequeathal form as your final disposition.

1. **Advise your estate trustee and family of your wish and leave a signed copy of this document with them or with your important papers.** It is important to have your executors aware of your desire to donate your body since the executor will need to make decisions regarding your disposition immediately after your death and before your will is read. This form provides our contact information and directions for them to follow when your death has occurred.

2. It may also help to have the following statement in your will so that the executor (and other family members) are assured that your wishes have been carried out: *"Upon my death, I request that my body be made available to the Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology of the University of Western Ontario (or to the nearest medical school), to be used for medical education and research."* **It is not a requirement for donation to have a will.**

3. If you are able, you may take the time to write out your detailed health history. This information will be anonymized and shared with the students and researchers who might benefit from this information in their course of study. Please keep that information together with this signed form A so that your estate trustee or next of kin can pass it along to the University should you be accepted into the program. Within the process of whole-body donation, the deceased or estate trustee/next of kin provides permission to share health information without personal identifiers for safety and research purposes with users.

As part of your detailed health history, you may consider the following question which will be asked of your executor/estate trustee after the donation intake has occurred.

Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry occasionally uses cadaveric material kept for long term retention to aid in its educational mission. The ultimate disposition of this retained material is cremation, followed by interment in the University burial site with similar remains.

Do you grant permission for the school to keep specimens of interest from your body for an indeterminate time for educational purposes

YES

NO INITIAL: _____

4. You should consider making prearrangements with your preferred funeral home or cremation service. It is the policy of Western University to receive donors into our care via the services of a funeral home or cremation service. It is advisable to also have a secondary plan in place for your ultimate disposition in the case that the University declines your donation. Please refer to *Guidance on eligibility of donors* (below) for further information.

Financial Expectations

All expenses in connection with the funeral services provider to facilitate the donation to Western are borne by the estate of the deceased.

All expenses in connection with the ultimate cremation of the deceased (approximately 18 months to 3 years following receipt into the program) will be borne by Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University. Notification of cremation will be sent to the Executors/Estate Trustee who shall claim the cremated remains from Western University's contracted cremation provider. Any expenses in connection to a final disposition of private interment or scattering of the cremated remains are the financial responsibility of the estate of the deceased.

Guidance on eligibility of donors

While normally each body bequeathed to the Department will be accepted, the Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology reserves the right not to accept a donor. Presently, the program may decline individuals who:

- Have certain infectious diseases (i.e. Tuberculosis, Vancomycin Resistant Enterococcus, Creutzfeldt Jakob Disease)
- Have had recent major surgery
- Have undergone autopsy
- Are in excess of 200 lbs in weight
- Are emaciated (<100 lbs)
- Have been organ donors (with some exceptions)
- Have radioactive seeds implanted
- Have been embalmed
- Died longer than 48 hours before the school is notified

Bodies on which amputations or autopsies have been performed will be considered on a case-by-case basis. There will be times when the requirements of the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University and other universities have been met, and it is not possible to accept a body. **The school reserves the right to decline any donor at any time.**

Nature of Use

Once a donor is accepted and received into Western's Body Bequeathal Program, their body may be utilized for anatomical teaching and/or research, which includes the creation of physical and/or digital educational resources.

Anatomical teaching takes place at Western University main campus in London, Ontario or the Schulich Medicine & Dentistry satellite campus in Windsor, Ontario. If necessary, transportation of donors is contracted to a BAO (Bereavement Authority of Ontario) licensed transportation service.

Research that uses donated bodies is required to receive approval from Western's Cadaveric Research Ethics Board. Membership of this board is made up of university affiliated individuals with expertise in ethics, science and law as well as community members.

Duration of Use

Donors are kept by the University for a period of no longer than 3 years before final disposition (typically 18-24 months) The Executor/Estate Trustee has the option to provide permission for the University to retain a selection of cadaveric material for an indefinite time for the purposes of teaching or research. Retained material will be cremated separately and the estate will not be notified of their final disposition.

Security/Sharing of Health Information

Western University's Cadaveric Anatomy Executive Committee (CAE), who oversees the Body Bequeathal Program assumes the responsibility of custodianship for the deceased, and any physical and/or digital resources created.

The security measures set in place by Microsoft and Western Technology Services, Western's Body Bequeathal Program handles information about each donor in a manner compliant with Ontario's [Personal Health Information Protection Act \(PHIPA\)](#), [Anatomy Act R.S.O. 1990](#) and [Canadian Privacy Law](#). This ensures data collected on all individual donors to the bequeathal program is kept confidential; any demographic information that is required during study and or research will be anonymized to the user.

Findings

The estate of the deceased will not be notified of any published work on the research that made use of a donor, nor will they necessarily be notified of any incidental findings during use in anatomical teaching. Western does not offer diagnostic or post-mortem reports on donors to Western's Body Bequeathal program.

I acknowledge the information provided to me on Western University's policies on bequeathed donors and hereby signify my wish to bequeath my body to the University of Western Ontario or other affiliated institution (or to the nearest medical school) for the purposes of medical education and research.

NAME: _____
(Please Print)

DATE: _____

SIGNED: _____

WITNESSED: _____

At the time of your death, a representative should: telephone the Department of Anatomy & Cell Biology, Western University (**days: 519-661-3014**) or the Western Special Constables Service (**weekends: 519-661-3300**) who will provide information on protocol to be followed.

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