Stanford Willed Body Program – Information for Donors

The decision to donate your body to Stanford upon your death represents a priceless gift to the world of medical education and a tremendous opportunity for the students who will one day be among our society’s most talented—and best trained—doctors and scientists. Thank you for considering making such a donation. For questions about our registration form or process please call 650-725-6624. Below are some important details about the program.

How The Program Works

Once you register to become a donor to the Willed (Whole) Body Program, Stanford’s Division of Clinical Anatomy will keep your name and contact information on file. Upon your death, a caregiver or family member must contact us right away as we must receive body donations promptly into our facility, within 12 hours of death. We take calls 24 hours/day, every day of the year. We will arrange for a funeral home to transport your body to Stanford Medical School, where it may be used to teach students about the structure of the human body and for furthering medical and scientific knowledge.

Stanford will only transport bodies from within a 150-mile radius of the campus.

Once study of the body is complete, we will arrange for cremation. **Please be advised that our program study period may range anywhere from two weeks to two years**. At the time of donation, your family will be asked whether they wish for the cremated remains to be returned or whether they would like us to arrange for interment. Our faculty, students, and staff are very grateful for the kindness our donors have extended, and bodies are treated with the greatest respect while in our care.

Can Stanford decline my offer to donate?

Yes, although we would like to accommodate all donors, acceptance into our program at time of death is dependent on many variables such as the condition of a body, resources and space. We strongly recommend that donors have a backup plan in place in case unforeseen circumstances prevent us from accepting your body donation at the time of death.

Stanford has the right to refuse a donation and may do so for a variety of reasons. For example, we are not able to accept bodies from those who have any infectious diseases (e.g. hepatitis, tuberculosis, VRE, etc.) or those who are HIV positive. If an autopsy has been performed on the body or if death occurred during major surgery, we cannot accept the donation. This is not a complete list—there may be other circumstances in which we cannot accept a body.

Upon the death of a donor, a family member or caregiver must contact us right away by phone. At that time, our coordinator will make a final determination as to whether the body can be accepted into our program. If, at our discretion, we are unable to accept your body, your family must make alternate arrangements for it.
Does the program cost anything? Is a payment involved?

Donors do not receive payment for their participation in the program, nor are they charged for participating. Stanford covers the cost of transporting your body if death occurs within 150 miles of campus, as well as costs of cremation.

Sometimes, a donor or family makes a monetary gift to support the costs of running the program, or encourages loved ones to make gifts. Such gifts are not required but are gratefully accepted.

What if I change my mind?

Registering for the program indicates your intent to be a donor. However, it is not a legally binding contract. If you change your mind, simply notify us and we will remove you from our registration list. It is important to tell your family and caregivers your wishes—they are the ones who must know whether to contact us upon your death. After your death, decisions regarding the donation of your remains are made by the person who has legal authority over your affairs.

Can I donate my body if I am also an organ donor?

No, due to logistical concerns we ask that you choose to do one or the other. Both are extremely valuable and we are grateful whether you chose to donate to Stanford’s Willed Body Program or wish to donate to an organ donor program.

Is there an age limit?

No, there is no upper age limit to donate your body.

What are my family’s options for a funeral?

Because we must receive body donations promptly into our program (within 12 hours of death), it is not possible for bodies to be embalmed elsewhere or to be present at a funeral or viewing. Of course, a memorial service may be held without the remains present. Also, families may request at the time of donation to have cremated remains returned some time later, as described previously. Some families choose to remember the deceased at this time as well. **Please be advised that our program study period may range anywhere from two weeks to two years**

Protecting Your Privacy

From the moment you register for our program, we make every effort to keep your name and other personal information confidential. Students and researchers are not told donors’ names, nor does Stanford publish them. In some cases, donors or their families may choose to disclose that they are supporting Stanford’s Willed Body Program, such as when asking loved ones to make gifts to the program.
Death Certificate

At the time of death, the attending physician will complete a death certificate. In most cases, Stanford will coordinate the filing of this certificate for you and your loved ones can request a copy of this at the County Clerk’s office in the county where death occurs.

Donations

If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation in the name of a loved one or to support educational and research endeavors within Clinical Anatomy, you can do so by visiting our website at http://anatomy.stanford.edu/about/giving.html

How to Register

Are you ready to register as a donor?

Please visit our website: http://anatomy.stanford.edu (click on the link for body donation), print out the registration form to return by mail, fax or email. Registration is not complete until we receive the signed registration form. Once we complete the registration process you will be mailed a Donor Wallet Card.

No computer?
Just give us a call at 650-725-6624 and we will mail you everything you need.

Questions? Email us at anatomy@stanford.edu or call us at 650-725-6624.
What happens after you have registered:

Within two to three weeks after registering for our program, you should receive a donor wallet card in the mail. Please call us at 650-725-6624 if you do not receive this.

Please share this important information with your next of kin, power of attorney, caregivers, physician and/or anyone else you deem necessary. Please also have it attached to your medical chart if you are in a hospital or facility.

Instructions for Family & Caregivers:

Thank you for helping to fulfill this donor’s wishes by contacting the Willed Body Program. You are playing an important part in the education of medical students at Stanford University.

Upon the death of a pre-registered donor, please notify us at 650-723-2404 as soon as possible. This phone number is monitored all day, every day, including weekends and holidays, so do not wait to contact us.

When you call this number at time of death please make it known you are calling in regards to the "Willed Body Program". Calling this number will page one of our staff members, who will call you back promptly.

At that time, our coordinator will make a final determination as to whether the body can be accepted into our program. Acceptance into our program at time of death is dependent on many variables such as the condition of a body, resources and space. We strongly recommend that donors have a backup plan in place in case unforeseen circumstances prevent us from accepting your body donation at the time of death. If, at our discretion, we are unable to accept the body, your family must make alternate arrangements for it. If a donor is accepted into our program we will arrange for a funeral service to pick up the body.

Please be advised, pickup for accepted donors at time of death can be up to 10 hours (4-6 is typical) but can extend longer based on variable factors beyond our control such as distance, time of day, staffing and call volume.

Return of Cremated Remains

Our coordinator will ask at time of death whether the family would like cremated remains returned at the end of our study program.

Death Certificate

Stanford will coordinate the filing of this certificate for you and you can request a copy of this at the County Clerk’s office in the county where the death occurred.
DONOR REGISTRATION FORM

Thank you for registering to donate your body to the Stanford Willed Body Program. You are making a priceless gift to the field of education, and it is greatly appreciated by the faculty, students, and staff at Stanford University.

Please complete the information required below, sign, and date the form. Two witnesses signatures are required for registration. We encourage you to make a copy of the signed document, for your own records. We recommend you inform your family, caregivers, physician, and attorney of your wishes to donate.

Return this completed document to:

Division of Clinical Anatomy
Stanford University
269 Campus Dr.
CCSR 0125, MC 5140
Stanford, CA 94305

You may fax the completed form to us at 650-725-8668 or email it to us at anatomy@stanford.edu
This document will be scanned and preserved electronically.

Donor Name: ___________________________________________  First               Middle               Last

Date of Birth: _____/____/____

Address: ____________________________________________________________
          Street                                                  City                         State/Zip Code

Phone #: ___________________________                   Email (optional): ___________________________

I hereby state that it is my wish to donate my body to the Stanford University School of Medicine immediately upon my death, for purposes of teaching and research, in such manner deemed appropriate by the Stanford University Willed Body Program.

I attest that I have read and agree to the program guidelines and policies explained in the Information for Donors document. I understand that my donation may be refused if, at the sole discretion of the program’s representative, the program is unable to accept it for any reason.

Donor Signature: ___________________________________________  Date: _________________
Witnesses (2 Required):

We the undersigned, have witnessed the signing of this document by the potential donor.

1. Signature of Witness ________________________________________________

   Printed Name ______________________________________________________

   Address __________________________________________________________

   City, State, Zip __________________________________________________

2. Signature of Disinterested Witness* ______________________________________

   Printed Name ______________________________________________________

   Address __________________________________________________________

   City, State, Zip __________________________________________________

   *“Disinterested witness” means a witness other than the spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandchild, grandparent, or guardian of the individual who makes, amends, revokes or refuses to make an anatomical gift, or another adult who exhibited special care and concern for the individual. The term does not include a person to which an anatomical gift could pass under California Health and Safety Code Section 7150.50

Our donors are very important to us. Please help us identify which of the following was your biggest influence in choosing Stanford’s Willed Body Program. (Circle all that apply).

Ease of process  No Cost  Return of Cremated Remains  Location/Proximity  Connection with Stanford

How did you hear about the Willed Body Program?

Friend/family member  Chaplain/Clergy  Web  Professional Caregiver

Please remember to notify the program of any change in your address.

Upon the donor’s death, call 650-723-2404 for immediate pickup. We are on-call 24 hours/day, every day, and will arrange for a funeral home to come pick up the body.