



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTH DAKOTA

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you for your interest in the University of South Dakota Body Donation Program. It is difficult to properly express the significance of such a gift to the education of our future health care professionals, and we sincerely appreciate your selfless and admirable bequest.

There are a variety of students who benefit from these generous donations. These students include our future doctors, occupational therapists, physical therapists, physician's assistants, nurses, pre-med students, a select grouping of undergraduate students, and students enrolled at institutions participating in our Education Outreach Program. Currently our Educational Outreach Program institutions include Lake Area Technical College, Northern State University, Northwestern College, and South Dakota State University. As you can see this gift will affect so many in our region, and we are happy there are individuals such as yourself that see the benefit donation has within our communities, counties, and state. With your bequest to our program, know you are contributing to the future of the Midwest's medical community.

We are enclosing three Declaration of Consent forms with instructions for distribution at the bottom of the page, Medical History Forms, and have also enclosed important informational material. We included a prepaid envelope for you to return the Declaration of Consent and Medical History Forms back to The Sanford School of Medicine University of South Dakota. Please use these forms and informational material when discussing your decision with your funeral home director, family, and friends.

Once the registration packet is received, we will review it. If we have no questions, a confirmation letter and donor card will be sent to the address listed on the Declaration of Consent form. We are most grateful for your interest in our program. Please reach out to my office with the contact information listed below, should you have questions.

Sincerely yours,

Brenda Auen
Body Donation Program Assistant
Sanford School of Medicine
The University of South Dakota

BODY DONATION PROGRAM

414 EAST CLARK STREET · VERMILLION, SD 57069-2390 · 605-677-5555 · BODYDONATION@USD.EDU



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Frequently Asked Questions

What conditions would make me ineligible for donation?

Conditions may exist which would render the donor unsuitable for study or would risk safety to students and faculty. Morbid obesity, organ donation (with the exception of eyes), severe trauma, communicable diseases or decomposition are the main reasons why we would not accept a donation. Therefore determination of acceptance into the program can only be made at the time of death. If there are questions or concerns with any of the above mentioned conditions please call and ask. We are more than happy to clarify or explain the reasonings behind this thought process.

Can I be an organ donor and still donate my body to the medical school?

Any individual may donate their organs, and it is strongly encouraged. You will no longer be eligible for whole body donation with us, but the gift you are giving far outweighs our needs. The chances of one being able to donate vital organs to the living are far fewer than being able to donate to our program. Eye donation is the exception to vital organ donation at time of death. Previous living donations (for example a kidney or bone marrow donation) may be made and still keep the donor eligible for whole body donation.

If I have not signed my bequeathal form can my family still donate my body to the University of South Dakota?

A donation made by the next of kin after death has occurred will be accepted only if space allows and at the discretion of the Body Donation Program.

Can I or my next of kin revoke my donation?

Yes. A donor or their next of kin may choose to revoke a donation at any time by contacting the Body Donation Program.

What happens if the Body Donation Program declines my donation?

If a donation is declined, it is the family's obligation to make final arrangements.

Can a person be too old or young to donate his or her body?

The Sanford School of Medicine does not accept donors under the age of 18. We only ask the age on our forms and birthdate to ensure we are following applicable laws. We are happy to take donors of any age over 18. We have accepted donors at the age of 102.

Will my family receive a report of your findings?

No. The mission of our Body Donation Program is to support anatomical education.

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Frequently Asked Questions

Will the Medical School pay me or my family for my body?

The Uniform Anatomical Gift Law prohibits medical schools from purchasing human bodies.

What should the family do when a donor has died?

At the time of death the family should call their funeral director and advise them to contact a representative of the University of South Dakota Body Donation Program for instructions regarding proper preparation of the body. If this is not done, there is a chance we will be unable to accept the potential donor as preservation becomes an issue.

Is it necessary to employ a funeral home if I donate my body to USD?

Yes. Each body must be initially embalmed at a licensed funeral home prior to arrival at the University. The funeral home is asked to contact USD for appropriate instructions. All expenses incurred at the funeral home are the responsibility of the donor's estate.

Is it possible for my family to deliver my body to the medical school?

No. A licensed funeral home, a licensed funeral facility, or the South Dakota Body Donation Program personnel must transport all bodies.

Is there a cost to my family if I donate my body to the University of South Dakota?

Yes. The donor's estate is responsible for the cost of transport outside of South Dakota or 100 miles from the Vermillion Campus to the medical school.

May a customary or traditional type of funeral service be held?

Yes. A visitation and a traditional service may be held prior to the transfer of the body to the Sanford School of Medicine.

Does Sanford School of Medicine hold a memorial service for the donors?

Yes. Each year the University of South Dakota students honor donors with a memorial service to recognize those who have generously donated to medical education. Faculty, staff and students attend and participate in this service to publicly express their appreciation to the donor families. Family members will be notified of the date and time of this service.

Typically how long does a study take?

Studies typically last for two and a half years. Some studies last more or less time. We will notify your family when the study is complete regardless of time frame.

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Donor Medical History Form

Dear Donor,

Thank you for your interest in the body donation program at USD. As part of our information gathering process, we require that you complete the following medical history form to the best of your ability. To help you understand the purpose of the form, please read the responses to the following frequently asked questions.

What is the purpose of the medical history form?

Often during our studies, our students encounter significant findings. In these situations, students are naturally interested in the cause of these findings. Referring back to the medical history form provides an enriched learning experience for the students. In addition, identifying interesting medical conditions prior to the use of a body allows us to be better prepared for the medical study. In instances where donors agree to permanent donations, these organs can be carefully preserved for years of medical education.

Will the medical history form be used to exclude me from body donation?

Possibly. Exclusion criteria are outlined in our Frequently Asked Questions document, and this criteria sometimes is revealed when answering the questionnaire. For example, we cannot accept a donor with a contagious disease for safety reasons. This is sometimes revealed in the illnesses section listed on the next page. The primary use of the Medical History Form is educational though, and this is why we ask our donors to complete it. We utilize these forms to help students make real life connections with their education. Should you have a question or concern about a disease or illness please contact us at (605) 677-5555. We will be more than happy to assist in answering any concerns with the form or with an illness.

Will forgetting information from the form exclude me from body donation?

No. You are encouraged to be as honest and upfront with the medical form as possible as it will greatly enhance the educational value of the donation. Donors can contact the body donation program at any time following submission of the form to update and/or revise the form with new or forgotten information.

Will students be able to determine my identity from the information I provide on this form?

No. Only the director of the body donation program, the director of the labs, and the program assistant have access to this file. The information provided to the students is very general and does not allow students to determine a donor's identity.

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DONOR MEDICAL HISTORY

Name: _____

Date: _____

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Height: _____

Weight: _____ lbs.

Occupation: _____

(If retired, please list previous careers)

Surgeries (Please supply the **approximate** age at which you had each surgery.)

Joint Replacement _____ Age _____ Joint(s) _____

Heart Surgery _____ Age _____

Spine Surgery _____ Age _____

Gall Bladder Removed _____ Age _____

Appendix Removed _____ Age _____

Tonsils Removed _____ Age _____

Number of pregnancies: _____

Hysterectomy _____ Age _____

Cesarean Section _____ Age _____

Other Surgeries

History of Cancer - Please list the type of cancer and treatments received

Illnesses

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Declaration of Consent

I, _____ hereby direct that upon my death my body be remanded to the Sanford School of Medicine Body Donation Program at the University of South Dakota for purposes of medical education.

Permanent donation consent (see back for details)

- I give permission for the Sanford School of Medicine to retain organs or body parts for indefinite donation.
- Please do **not** retain any organs or a body part for indefinite donation.

This paper is executed with my knowledge and consent.

 Signature Date

 Mailing Address (please print) City State Zip Phone

 E-mail Address @ _____

 Signature of witness and Date (Relationship to donor)

 Signature of disinterested witness* and Date (Relationship to donor)

_____ I acknowledge there are costs associated with donation as mentioned in my information packet. Please initial. (Also listed on the back of this sheet)

_____ I acknowledge educational entities may utilize digital media to help facilitate courses. Please initial and read the digital media policy as listed on the back of this form.

Three copies of this form must be signed by the donor and witnessed. Please distribute copies to the following parties:

1. Donor keeps copy for personal files
2. Director of the Funeral Home of your choice
3. Sanford School of Medicine at the following address:
 Sanford School of Medicine
 University of South Dakota
 Body Donation Program
 414 E. Clark Street
 Vermillion, SD 57069-2390

Additional copies may be made for your next-of-kin, attorney, and/or physician.

*A disinterested witness means a witness that has no familial relationship (in-laws included) to the donor or guardianship of the donor.

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Permanent donation consent

Agreeing to permanent donation allows us prolonged study of an organ or body part for educational purposes. We are still able to return all but the item retained for permanent donation to the family within the normal study timeframe. The organ or body part would stay here for additional study. If a point is ever reached that the item is no longer suitable for study, it is cremated and buried at Bluffview Cemetery. Please indicate your decision on the front to ensure we follow your wishes when the time comes. Not every donor who consents to permanent donation will have an organ or body part kept for prolonged study, and we cannot honor requests to study specific body parts or organs.

Costs Associated with Donation

The Uniform Anatomical Gift Act prohibits any financial gain from the donation of one's body or body parts. All costs associated with the Body Donation Program are to cover expenses for transportation.

- Each body must be initially embalmed at a licensed funeral home prior to arrival at the University. The funeral home is asked to contact USD for appropriate instructions. All expenses incurred at the funeral home are the responsibility of the donor's estate.
- The Body Donation Program will cover transportation in the state of South Dakota. Transportation outside of the state is currently \$.65 per mile for transportation. For more details, please call the Body Donation Program

Digital Media Policy

The Sanford School of Medicine Body Donation Program at the University of South Dakota exists to support anatomy education and research. The Body Donation Program provides intact and prosected donors to a number of affiliated educational Partner program (Partners). Photography and video recording have widespread uses in educational and scholarly activity related to human anatomy. However, the need to preserve the privacy and dignity of donors remains a paramount concern. This policy is striving to achieve a balance between the photography and video recording needs of the educational programs and the privacy and dignity of donors.

- Digital media is only allowed after prior approval of the body donation program and will follow strict guidelines to keep the identity of our donors protected.
- The body donation program will keep records of all digital media to ensure standards and record keeping of sensitive material. In a sense, the digital media may be stored for educational purposes, indefinitely.

_____ I acknowledge reading this page and agree to all outlined information so I may donate my body to the Sanford School of Medicine Body Donation Program at the University of South Dakota. **Please initial.**

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