

# **STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY**

Division of Clinical Anatomy  
Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences  
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In accordance with the National Health Act 61 of 2003

# **BEQUEST OF A BODY TO**

## **STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY**

The use of donated bodies are specifically related to teaching and research for Science, Health Science and Allied Health Science students as well as Medical Specialists. Donated bodies are treated with the utmost respect and the anonymity of the individual donor will not be compromised in any format or for any reason. Any research that will be conducted on the donated body has to be evaluated and approved by the Stellenbosch University Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) to ensure that the use of the remains are not compromised in any legal or ethical regard. If you desire to donate your body to Stellenbosch University (Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences) for research or anatomical purposes, please inform your next-of-kin about your decision.

### **1. Eligibility for body donation:**

1.1 The following exclusion criteria applies for body donation:

1.1.1 Children (younger than 16 -years of age).

1.1.2 Bodies of persons who succumbed to the following conditions: smallpox, typhoid fever, amoebic dysentery, syphilis, hepatitis, congo fever, meningitis, anthrax, cholera, SARS coronavirus or similar pandemic associated disease. (Bodies with HIV are accepted).

1.1.3 Bodies that weigh more than 110 kg.

1.2 The Division of Clinical Anatomy will accept bodies that have undergone post-mortem autopsies, when needed.

1.3 The University is bound by certain rules governing the acceptance of human materials. This means that although the donor's body has been willed to the University, it may not be possible for the Division to accept it due to the circumstances discussed (see 1.1). The Division of Clinical Anatomy will inspect the body of a deceased donor to determine whether the body is suitable for medical education, science and research. If the body is deemed unsuitable for medical education, science and research, the family will be informed so that they can proceed with burial procedures.

## **2. Procedure following death of the donor:**

2.1 In the case of death at a health care facility, the next-of-kin should contact the Division.

- Contact the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at Tygerberg **(021) 938 9416 - during office hours or via e-mail\_su\_bodydonations@sun.ac.za.**

2.2 If death should occur at home or after-hours, the South African Police Services and Ambulance services should be contacted. Once death certification is completed (notification of death, BI-1663), a funeral home should be contacted to collect the body. *Please note, costs incurred for transport, storage and death registration are for the next-of-kin's account.*

2.2 In accordance with the National Health Act 61 of 2003 the Inspector of Anatomy, Department of Health, in whose area the donor died, must also be notified of the death. Such notification must be confirmed in writing within 24-hours. The Division of Clinical Anatomy accepts responsibility for notifying the Inspector of Anatomy but require the death certificate of the deceased. Therefore, it is crucial that the deceased's death be registered as soon as possible and relevant documentation provided to the University.

## **3. Transportation of the donor to Tygerberg Medical Campus:**

3.1 The next of kin of the donor is responsible for all costs incurred from the undertaker to the medical school.

3.2 Should the death of a donor occur so far from the Medical Campus that the body will not be fit for embalming here, the University will unfortunately not accept it even if the donor had made their own transportation arrangements. The donor can, however, donate their body to the nearest Medical School.

## **4. Memorial:**

4.1 A memorial service to honour donors, will be held by the University, during the course of each academic year. Family members will be notified and are welcome to attend. The next-of-kin is responsible for keeping their contact details updated to make communication possible.

5. Cremation and ashes

5.1 Depending on the wishes of the donor, ashes can be retained after cremation. In these cases, it is required that a request form be completed along with the donation form. The Division of Clinical Anatomy will retain ashes for a finite period; therefore, certain deadlines are applicable. The University will only retain the ashes of the donors for a maximum of 5-years and will dispose of the ashes thereafter. It is the responsibility of the selected family members or friends of the donor to ensure that they collect the ashes from the Division of Clinical Anatomy within this 5-year period. It is also the responsibility of this individual to ensure that they make the Medical School aware of any change of contact details prior to or within this 5-year period. Family members will be informed as ashes are made available.

## 6. Policy changes and notification

6.1 Please view our website frequently to ensure you are updated with any changes to our program. The website can be accessed via the following link:

[http://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/healthsciences/Anatomy\\_and\\_Histology/body-donation-programme](http://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/healthsciences/Anatomy_and_Histology/body-donation-programme)

6.2 Should the death of the donor occur during a national or global disaster, the next-of-kin must inform the division.

6.3 If the national or global disaster does not allow for the donation to be accepted by the Division, the next-of-kin is responsible for burial/cremation arrangements.

## 7 Application process

7.1 Please submit the following documents to pre-register as a body donor:

7.1.1 Donation form

7.1.2 Copy of your ID document or card (both sides)

7.1.3 Copy of witnesses ID document or card (both sides)

7.1.4 Request for return of ashes

7.2 Your application will be processed and letters of acknowledgment returned to you. Should you not receive confirmation from the University within seven working days, please follow up with: [su\\_bodydonations@sun.ac.za](mailto:su_bodydonations@sun.ac.za) or 021 938 9416

### **For further information contact:**

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