FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BODY DONATION PROGRAM

Prior to Enrollment:
You must have completed and signed the Body Donation Form

Designation or placement of the body to a program or an institution:
The donor, in advance, should state in their will to have his body donated to an anatomical donation program or to a medical school.

Is there payment made for the donation of the body?
No.

Shared donated bodies?
The willed body, a great resource, may be used in any of the NYU School of Medicine Anatomical or Surgical Programs.

Reasons for the rejection of bodies:
Although, not an absolute, the following is a guide for not accepting a bequeathed body -
- Autopsied body
- Embalmed body other than NYU's own procedures
- Infectious diseases
- Other conditions; recent operations where the wound has not healed, obesity, gangrene, organ donation, or any conditions which may make the body unsuitable for anatomical study.

Is a funeral ceremony allowed before donation of the body?
No, the body must be transported to the School of Medicine as soon as possible, following death, for immediate embalming. A memorial service, without the presence of the body, is suggested.

Is there a cost to the family, heirs or estate?
All costs related to the transportation of the body will be assumed by the School of Medicine if the donor died in the City of New York. The School will not be responsible for the cost of transportation of remains outside the mentioned area. All other expenses, including burial, will be the responsibility of the family, heirs or estate.

How long time period will the body will remain at NYU School of Medicine?
Approximately 24 months.

How will the family, heirs or estate be notified that the remains have been received?
An acknowledgment letter that the donor’s body was received by the School of Medicine will be sent to the family.

What happens with the donor’s remains?
The cremated remains will either be returned to the family or buried in the City of New York cemetery. The School of Medicine will bear all costs associated with cremation and return of the remains to the family. The School of Medicine is not, however, responsible for burial costs when the remains are returned to the family.

If the family has not responded to the release notification letter after a period of 90 days from the date on the letter, we reserve the right to turn over the remains of the decedent to the City of New York for burial.

If you have any questions concerning the Anatomical Donation Program of the NYU School of Medicine, please contact the above listed address.