



Creighton
UNIVERSITY
Medical Center

*State of Nebraska Deeded Body
Program*

[FAQs](#)

Creighton University works in conjunction with the University of Nebraska Medical Center to participate in the State of Nebraska Deeded Body Program. The State of Nebraska Anatomical Board uses one standard [form](#) for all anatomical donors regardless of the donor's institutional preference.

Donors have the option to designate a specific institution to be the recipient of their anatomical gift (i.e. Creighton or UNMC) if they wish to do so. Regardless of institutional preference, all completed applications are to be returned to Mr. Paul Becker, Director of the Deeded Body Program.

Ben Hall
Nebraska Anatomical Board
986395 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-6395
Email: Benjamin.Hall@UNMC.edu
402-559-4030

<http://www.donatemybody.org/>
State of Nebraska Anatomical Board website

It is imperative that all sections of the bequeathal forms are complete before returning them, especially the sections regarding interment instructions.

If you have additional questions regarding the Deeded Body Program, please contact Katy Traver at 402-280-2542 or katy@creighton.edu.

FAQs

Q. Why are human bodies willed, bequeathed, deeded or donated to the University of Nebraska College of Medicine and Creighton University Medical School?

A. They are an indispensable aid in medical teaching and research. The basis of all medical knowledge is human anatomy; human anatomy can be learned only by a study of the human body.

Q. Is bequeathing or deeding one's body difficult or complicated?

A. No, it is a very simple and easy procedure. The anatomical Board provides the legal forms which require only a few items of information, the donor's signature and the signature of two witnesses. These forms are in compliance with the bequeathal law, The Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (<http://www.law.upenn.edu/bll/ulc/fnact99/uaga87.htm>), and protect the donor's wishes. The completed forms must be returned for enrollment in the program.

Q. Can a donation take place against the wishes of the spouse or next-of-kin?

A. By Nebraska Law, yes, but the Medical Schools are not inclined to accept a body under conditions in which there is objection to donation or dissension among members of the family who are legally responsible for final disposition of the body. Donors are advised to notify all persons likely to be concerned of their intentions and of their plans to make a bequest of their body. In this way, any differences of opinion regarding a matter such as this can be resolved in advance of the time when decisions must be made in haste and under the handicap of grief.

Q. Are there restrictions on the condition of the bodies accepted?

A. Yes. Occasionally a problem may exist which would interfere with the intended use of a donor's gift for education and research. The body may not be acceptable if the following conditions are present:

- Organs or parts removed for transplantation or autopsy with the exception of eyes.
- Decomposition of the body.
- Severe trauma, drowning, burning, homicide or motor-vehicle accident; death from suicide.
- Contagious disease.
- Morbid obesity, emaciation, body contracture, jaundice, or edema.
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In such an instance, the next of kin or the person in charge of the donor's affairs, if known to us, will be informed and other options for final disposition will be discussed.

Q. May I alter, cancel, or revoke my deed if I change my mind?

- A. Yes, at any time, by notifying the Nebraska Anatomical Board in writing:
Nebraska Anatomical Board
986395 Nebraska Medical Center
Omaha, NE 68198-6395

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

- A. No. Medical schools are not permitted by law to purchase any person's body, either from the person himself or from his survivors.

Q. How much time is required for the scientific study?

- A. This will vary according to the specific nature of the study to which the body is assigned. In most instances there is a time lapse of about two years between the arrival of the body at the college and completion of the study, but the time required may be even longer.

Q. What if my death occurs away from home?

- A. An identification card, stating that the bequest has been made is provided by the Nebraska Anatomical Board. This card should be carried in the purse or wallet at all times.

If death occurs within a 60-mile radius of Omaha and the body can be delivered to the Anatomical Board within 12 hours of the death, there may be little or no expense depending on if a mortuary is involved and their particular policies. Beyond the 60-mile radius, or if delivery of the donor will require more than 12 hours, additional arrangements may need to be made with a mortuary.

The Anatomical Board reimburses mortuaries only for mileage one way, up to 250 miles. **It is important that survivors have a clear understanding of the expenses incurred when arrangements requires the assistance of a mortuary.**

Q. What happens when the scientific study is concluded?

- A. The remains will be cremated with dignity and respect. If requested to do so the College will return the human cremated remains, in a suitable container at its own expense, to the surviving relatives for final disposition.

If no such request is made, the human cremated remains of Creighton School of Medicine anatomical donors will be interred at Resurrection Cemetery (7710 W. Center Rd., Omaha, NE 68124). Creighton School of Medicine has a Memorial Service every Spring for their anatomical donors which is held at St. John's Church followed by a short on-campus reception and graveside service at Resurrection Cemetery.