

Body Donation

Policies and procedures for donating your whole body to the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai



Icahn
School of
Medicine at
**Mount
Sinai**

Amidst all of medicine's cutting-edge technology lies the most precious source of knowledge in all of medical science: the human body.

The Need for Bodies after Death

Nothing can equal the human body in giving students of medicine their fundamental knowledge of anatomy.

The study of anatomy provides an understanding of body structures, how they function and how they relate to each other. This understanding is the physician's most important tool and is the foundation upon which all medical learning and research is built.

Human cadavers donated to medical schools have long been of life-saving value, affording a means of perfecting new surgical techniques, and providing as essential resources in research related to diabetes, heart disease, breast cancer and other diseases.

A whole body anatomical donation can help advance medical training and research and lead to scientific developments serving future generations.

The generous gift of whole body donation also leaves behind a legacy of service to humanity and may ease the financial burden of a funeral on surviving family members.

How to Donate

Any individual over 18 years of age may donate his or her body before death by completing Donor Forms. Please contact the Anatomical Gift Program at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai to obtain the forms. The bequeathal form must be signed by one or two witnesses to be valid. After death, the remaining Donor Forms may be executed by the next-of-kin or Executor.

The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai does not offer payment for a body, but will assume responsibility for appropriate administrative and filing fees, as well as for the cost of transportation of the remains to the School, up to a distance of 120 miles. It will be the responsibility of the next-of-kin or other designated individual(s) to pay for transportation to the School for any distance in excess of 120 miles.

At the Time of Death

When death occurs, the next-of-kin, hospital staff, or Executor should immediately notify the Anatomical Gift Program at the Icahn School of Medicine by calling (212) 241-7276. If it is outside of normal business hours, Coordinators can be paged at (917) 641-0063 or (917) 641-0094. Please leave a return number and the Program Coordinators will call to gather the donor information and make the necessary arrangements for the transport of the body to the School.

A body should not be embalmed.

Icahn School of Medicine reserves the right to decline the donation of a body when the remains are deemed unsuitable for educational purposes, for example, due to autopsies, infectious disease, or extreme obesity.

Donors are free to change their minds and revoke gifts at any time.

Disposition & Interment

When study of the body is completed, approximately 16–18 months after donation, bodies are cremated individually and the donor's wishes carried out regarding the disposition of ashes. Two options are available: ashes may be returned to the family or other designated individual, or the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai will assume responsibility for disposition and will inter the ashes at the Brick Church Cemetery in New York.

If you have any additional questions about body donation, please call 212-241-7276.

Anatomical Gift Program

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