



UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN

College of Medicine
Anatomy and Cell Biology

Body Bequeathal Program



The high cost of funeral arrangements...

A typical funeral including casket, interment, headstone, burial plot and services can cost in the range of \$10,000. If you are among the many that do not want to leave your estate or family with the cost of burial, you may wish to consider another option.

By donating your body to medical education and science, you can allay your fear of a high cost funeral. For the privilege of using your body to teach the future doctors, dentists, physical therapists and other medical practitioners, the College of Medicine will pay for all arrangements starting with transportation and ending with cremation or interment according to your wishes.

The ultimate gift, selfless and perpetual...

At the University of Saskatchewan annual Memorial Ceremony, organized by the students who have benefited from the bequeathal program, bequeathal donors are described as being completely selfless. The students fully appreciate that generous donors, and their families, allow future practitioners to develop a unique understanding of the human body and its form and function. They understand that without donors, their medical education would be incomplete.

The College of Medicine is extremely thankful to those who choose to donate their body to medical science. Those people who consider this choice have some very specific questions about the process. Please find answers to the most frequently asked questions below.

Within the College of Medicine, who handles the program?

The Body Bequeathal program administered by the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology has been in operation since 1935 and, last year alone, helped over 500 students with their education.

Are there limitations on expenses paid by the College?

Yes. The only limitation on expenses covered is death outside of the province. We still can accept your bequeathal, but we will ask your estate or next of kin to assist with transportation costs. The other option is to give your next of kin information about the closest Medical College and their program.

Are there age restrictions for my bequeathal?

Yes. You must be the age of majority to provide a bequeathal. Those under 18 cannot sign a legally valid bequeathal. However, in certain cases, such as imminent death, certain persons such as parents, siblings, or other next of kin of age of majority, may sign the required forms for a minor person. There is no upper age limit for donations.

Is there any other way to donate my body to the College?

Yes. If you verbally state to any person that you wish to donate your body, such as a hospital administrator or family member, that person may complete the form authorizing the donation for you. Regardless of who completes your form, there must be two witnesses 21 years of age or older who must sign the form.

Can I participate in both an organ donor and body bequeathal program?

No, unless it is only cornea transplantation.

How do I go about leaving my body to the Medical College?

The Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology can provide you with the necessary legal forms. After you complete and return the forms to the Department, we will provide you with a donor card, which you can carry with your driver’s license or other identification. We will contact you periodically to update your file.

Should I inform someone of my bequest?

Yes. Since we must receive your donation within 24 hours, it is imperative that you discuss your bequeathal decision with your next-of-kin and provide them with a copy of your completed form. If you have no next-of-kin, then please inform a friend. You should provide your physician and the executor of your estate or attorney with copies of your completed form.

If I make a bequest and then change my mind, may I cancel the donation?

Yes. You may ask to be taken out of the bequeathal program at any time. You do this by making a written request to the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology.

What happens to my remains?

You may choose to have your cremated remains returned to your next of kin or buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, in the University of Saskatchewan plot, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Your next of kin will be notified of the location of your grave after burial or contacted for delivery information.

Is my body guaranteed to be accepted?

No. There are several medical reasons that make it impossible for us to accept a bequeathal. Determination of acceptance depends upon cause of death, condition of the body at the time of death as well as some operational restrictions. Please visit our FAQ page at <http://www.medicine.usask.ca/acb/department/body-bequeathal-program/faq.php#14> for a more complete list of reasons

If I want to give the most selfless donation a person can, how do I start?



You must fill out legal forms to bequeath, for forms:

Please contact the Body Bequeathal Program by telephone at (306)966-4075 or by mail:

Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology
College of Medicine
University of Saskatchewan
2D01 Health Sciences Building
107 Wiggins Road
Saskatoon, SK S7N 5E5
Email: donna.dodge@usask.ca

For more FAQ, downloadable forms and information about our Department, please visit us at: <http://www.medicine.usask.ca/acb/department/body-bequeathal-program/index.php>

Please send me an application form for the body bequeathal program.

Name: _____

Address: Street/P.O. Box _____

City/Town _____, SK

Postal Code _____

Phone: (306)_____

