Donation Arrangements Made After Death

- In the event that someone who wishes to donate his or her remains to the FOReSt dies without having filed the donation paperwork, it is still possible for the donation to take place. In this situation, the next of kin or a responsible party may contact the Director of the Forensic Osteology Research Station regarding donation (see Contact Information). Donation paperwork will be provided so that the next of kin can donate the person’s remains.

- The next of kin will be asked to make arrangements with a funeral home to receive the body after death, to transport it to the FOReSt, and to create and file the death certificate. A funeral home has the appropriate license and vehicle to transport a body to our facility. Funeral directors are also accustomed to creating and filing death certificates and have facilities for keeping bodies in cold storage until the transfer to the FOReSt can be made. We reserve the right to refuse a body that does not come to us via a licensed funeral director. The cost of transportation and other services provided by a funeral home are your responsibility.

- Before a body donation can be received at the FOReSt, a certified copy of the death certificate must be provided.

- The FOReSt will not accept a donation of an uncremated body that has been diagnosed with communicable disease. These diseases include, but are not limited to: smallpox, plague, HIV infection, hepatitis A infection, hepatitis B infection, hepatitis C infection, MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus), rabies, or Jakob-Creutzfeldt. (see Cremation Information)

- Weight is a factor we have to consider when accepting a donation due to the fact that we will hand carry the body into our facility. If the deceased weighs in excess of 250 pounds we reserve the right to refuse the donation. If weight might be an issue, consider cremation. We will accept cremated remains (see Cremation Information).

- It is imperative that your body not be embalmed. An embalmed body cannot be accepted as the embalming process inhibits decomposition and the usefulness of your body as a donation to our facility.

- A body may be rejected if it has been modified in a manner that reduces the scientific usefulness of the body.

- If a person donated by the next of kin is an organ donor, the next of kin should make arrangements for the body to be transferred to the FOReSt after the organs have been removed.

- If at the time of death your next of kin do not choose to honor your wishes, the FOReSt will not go against the wishes of your next of kin.
Contact Information:

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