

# BODY DONATION FACT SHEET

We appreciate your attention to the following, **prior to the completion of paperwork:**

1. Unlike medical schools, we **do not** return remains to the family. The skeletal remains are a very important component to our research and teaching program. Donations made to our program will continue to be studied by researchers for many years.
2. We **do not** perform autopsies to determine cause of death on donations to our program. However, registered organ donors and those autopsied prior to donation will remain eligible for donation consideration regardless of either procedure.
3. We **reserve the right to decline donations of individuals for any reason**, but especially anyone who may have some form of **infectious disease** such as HIV, tuberculosis, hepatitis (of any kind), or antibiotic resistant infections such as MRSA, even if contracted after donation is arranged. Additionally, we **cannot take donations of individuals weighing over 300 lbs.**
  - a. However, donors who are over the weight limit or have an infectious disease who still wish to donate may do so by having their remains cremated. Cremains are an invaluable learning resource. People choosing this option should contact us prior to making arrangements. This allows us to work with the crematory involved to **ensure the remains are not pulverized.** The family must assume responsibility for the arrangement and cost of cremation.
4. We will arrange transportation to our facility if the deceased is within **150 miles of USF.** Outside of this 150 mile radius, the donor or donor's family is responsible for the arrangement and cost of donor transportation.
5. We are unable to transport from a **private residence.** In the event the deceased is located in a private residence, the donor's family must arrange for transportation. This is a service provided by most funeral homes.
  - a. If you are *within 50 miles* of USF and the Medical Examiner's Office declines to transport to their facility, then the donor's family may contact **Dobies Funeral Home** for transportation. Their contact information can be found here: <http://www.dobiesfuneralhome.com> | (727) 937-7555.
6. If there is a funeral service, please contact us once arrangements have been made. This allows us to work with the funeral home involved to **ensure the remains are not embalmed.** We **will not accept** any individuals that have been embalmed.
7. If there is no funeral, death certificates may be obtained from your local health department.
8. We need to have signed donation documents or releases prior to transporting. Your donation paperwork will not be complete until all originals are returned.
9. Pre-donor paperwork needs to be returned to USF in order for a file to be established. Changes of address or medical status should be sent to keep donor files up to date.