

Criteria and Considerations for Donation

Donor must be at least 18 years of age. An individual might not be eligible for whole-body donation after an organ donation. Please note that the removal of the eyes is the only allowable extraction.

Denial of a Donation

Meharry Medical College might not accept a bequest if the:

- Potential donor has an infectious or a contagious disease i.e., HIV/AIDS, hepatitis B or hepatitis C, prion, Tuberculosis, Mersa.
- Next of kin objects to the donation of the body.
- Body is 110 pounds or less or more than 160 pounds for women, or less than 125 pounds or more than 190 pounds for men.
- Body has been autopsied, mutilated, or is decomposed.
- Donations are not needed at the time
- Body is jaundiced, in fetal position, or has major limb amputations.
- Body has severe decubitus ulcers and/or bed sores.

Meharry Medical College encourages all potential donors to have an alternate plan in case the donation isn't accepted.

We trust that this information will be helpful to you in making this very important decision regarding the donation of your body, your loved ones, or next-of-kin to science. Please do not hesitate to contact us at the Anatomical Donation Program at any time if you have any further questions or concerns.

Mission Statement

Meharry Medical College is an academic comprehensive health sciences center that exists to improve the health and health care of minority and underserved communities by offering excellent education and training programs in the health sciences. True to its heritage, Meharry Medical College places special emphasis on providing opportunities for people of color, individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, and others regardless of race or ethnicity; delivering high quality health services; and conducting research that fosters the elimination of health disparities.

Anatomical Donation Program

Meharry Medical College
(Body Donation)
1005 Dr. D. B. Todd, Jr. Blvd
Nashville, TN 37208

Available 24 hours, 7 days per week
To report a death or for more information
(615) 327-6944,
or **(615) 327-6691**



**Body Donation For Use In
Education & Research**

**ANATOMICAL
DONATION
PROGRAM**

Whole Body Donation

Whole body donation helps medical researchers and doctors to research and identify better ways to treat a comprehensive range of illnesses and conditions. Whole body donors contribute to advances in medical and physician training; development of surgical procedures; treatment breakthroughs in areas such as gynecology, colon and liver illness, diabetes, and HIV; improved understanding of how diseases progress; development of life-changing medical devices; cancer protocols; treating spinal injuries; and enhanced drug delivery mechanisms.



Body Donation Procedure

The Meharry Medical College procedure for accepting a whole-body donation begins with notification of a donor's death. A health care representative from the hospital, medical facility or hospice organization where the death occurs should contact Meharry Medical College's Anatomical Donation Program coordinator. The coordinator will review acceptance protocol to determine whether the donation can be accepted. If the potential donor meets the acceptance criteria, the next of kin will be contacted to determine if whole-body donation should proceed. Transportation of the body to Meharry Medical College will then be arranged.

If the death does not occur in a medical facility or under hospice care, local law enforcement personnel should be notified and the coroner or medical examiner will determine if an autopsy is necessary. If no further investigation is required, Meharry Medical College will be notified and proceed with the acceptance procedure.

Typically, studies of donated bodies are completed in 18 to 24 months. Meharry Medical College offers biocremation as a means of final disposition. The biocremented remains can be returned to the family or interred in the Meharry Medical College Cemetery Plot at Woodlawn Cemetery, in Nashville, TN. If traditional cremation or burial is the donor's wish, the donor's estate is responsible for the cost of the casket and all funeral expenses.

Payment

There is no payment for body donation, as explicitly stated by law in every state. Meharry Medical College has limited funds to reimburse transportation expenses for a whole-body donation. Any expenses beyond the fund limit (200 mile radius) are the responsibility of the donor's estate. If the donor dies out of state and the cost of transporting the body to Meharry Medical College is too expensive, the next of kin can contact a nearby medical school about making the donation there.

Donation of Bodies

A signed Anatomical Bequest form is required by Meharry Medical College for the whole-body donation, to the Anatomical Donation Program executed by the prospective donor. The gift of whole-body donation is authorized by the individual, but the legal next of kin is responsible for carrying out the donor's wishes. If the next of kin opposes the donation, it will not occur. Meharry Medical College advises donors to notify their families of their intentions.