Western University Policies for Body Bequeathal Program

Guidelines for Funeral Service Professionals

This memorandum will serve as a reference for funeral service professionals in the event that you should be involved in the delivery of a human cadaver to Western University.

Upon the death of a person, you may be contacted by the next of kin, a health care worker or another associate. When it has been determined that the next of kin wishes to donate the cadaver to medical science, it will be necessary to contact the University to determine whether or not the donor will be accepted into the bequeathal program. There are certain causes of death, or pre-mortem conditions which will make a cadaver unacceptable for donation to this school. A staff member of the University will make the decision to accept or not based on cause of death and other medical information.

Communication

A staff member of Western University’s Body Bequeathal program will be available to answer inquiries and determine donor eligibility whenever the University is currently accepting donors.

During business hours, the department of Anatomy and Cell Biology can be reached at (519) 661-3014.

During evenings and weekends, Western Campus Police can be notified at (519) 661-3300. They will forward your message to the on-call staff member who will return your call.

We will endeavour to accept every cadaver offered to this school at all times. There are, however, certain causes of death or pre mortem conditions which will make the cadaver unacceptable. Our criteria for donor acceptance can fluctuate with our current teaching and research needs.

Transportation Services

Should the donor be accepted into Western University’s body bequeathal program, the estate of the deceased is responsible to hire your professional services to handle the transportation of the deceased, the registration of the death and other services. The costs of your professional services, transporting the remains, the acquisition of the required documentation and any other services or disbursements are the responsibility of the estate.

The documentation that must accompany the donor’s delivery to this school are:

a) The burial permit
b) A copy of the Form 16 Medical Certificate of Death*
c) A copy of the Form 15 Statement of Death*
d) The complete contact information of the executor or next of kin

*As stipulated by the Solicitor General of Ontario under the Vital Statistics Act and the Anatomy Act
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There is no need to obtain any paperwork from the coroner (i.e. Coroner's Cremation Certificate, Form 3 - Anatomy Act) That is all handled by the University upon acceptance.

Delivery

At the agreed upon delivery time, donors may be delivered to Loading Dock 25 of the Medical Sciences Building on Western University Campus. Written directions and a campus map are included here for your reference.

Once you enter the main gates of the University from Richmond St. (Hwy. 4) Proceed due west along University Drive as it crosses the Thames River.
Proceed straight through the stoplights and the road continues as Middlesex Dr.
The road curves left around behind the Physics and Astronomy building.
At the stop sign you should turn right into a small driveway between the Natural Science and Kresge buildings.
Loading dock 25 can be found on the left side. Please back up to the small ramp alongside it.

After receiving of the donor and all necessary documentation, we will contact the next-of-kin acknowledging receipt. We will enclose a questionnaire for the family to complete. In this form, we ask the family to indicate whether they wish to claim the cremated remains for private disposition or alternatively, to be notified of the date and place of interment.