

Western University Policies for Body Bequeathal Program

Guidelines for Health Care Workers

Western University relies on the assistance of dedicated health care workers in the process of bequeathing a donor to our body bequeathal program. Health care workers are in the unique position to offer one last act of care for the deceased by connecting the bereaved family with Western University.

When the death occurs

Health Care Workers familiar with the patient's medical history may contact Western University to advise the bequeathal staff on the patient's health history and medical cause of death. This information can be relayed over the phone.

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. It is for this reason that the donor's family are advised to have a secondary plan in place for final disposition of the body.

Transportation Services

The estate of the deceased is responsible to hire the professional services of a funeral home or cremation service to handle the transportation of the deceased, the registration of the death and other services. ***The costs of transporting the remains and of the acquisition of the required documentation are the responsibility of the estate.*** The family may use any funeral home or cremation service of their choice.

It is with this company that you are asked to arrange the removal of the deceased from their place of death - whether hospital, hospice or home.

There is no need to obtain any paperwork from the coroner (ie. Coroner's Cremation Certificate, Form 3 - Anatomy Act) That is all handled by the University upon acceptance.

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.