



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is whole-body donation?

A: Whole-body donation allows for an individual to donate their body to science at end-of-life for medical advancements. This includes surgical device development, advanced disease-based research and hands-on bio skills training.

Q: Why is it important to donate to science?

A: There is no substitute for human tissue when studying the body. Medical professionals and students benefit from human tissue which allow them to develop and practice their skills.

Q: Who is eligible to donate?

A: UTN accepts all BMIs, upper ages, cancers, dementias and much more. To protect our medical professionals, individuals with HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B or Hepatitis C are not eligible.

Q: Can one request a specific cause for the donation to support?

A: While the wishes are taken into consideration, UTN cannot guarantee placement with a specific organization or area of study. We unite the donor's gift with the most relevant medical training and education to maximize the donation.

Q: Is the donor's information kept confidential?

A: UTN believes in the confidentiality for both the donor and the medical professional. In order to maintain confidentiality, all donors are assigned a unique identification number that is used for all forms of communication other than with the donor family.

Q: Can a donor still have a funeral?

A: All whole-body donors are cremated and therefore a traditional funeral with a casket is not possible. Memorials, life celebrations and other types of honoring the donor are encouraged as a way of finding closure and allowing others to pay their respects.

Q: When will cremated remains be returned to the family?

A: Cremated remains are returned to the family within 4-6* weeks and all cremations are performed by a licensed crematory. Cremated remains are sent via certified mail to either the funeral home of the family's choosing or to a personal residence. Cremated remains may not be shipped internationally.

*If a special project is selected by the family and the donor qualifies, it can take up to two years for the cremated remains to be returned.

Q: What cost is covered by UTN?

A: UTN covers the costs associated with the removal from the place of passing, transportation to our facility, two certified copies of the death certificate and cremation.