

Frequently asked questions

Legacy Body Donation Program

What about donating organs?

Organ donation, with the exception of donating eyes, can only occur before the person dies. If the person has donated organs, the body cannot be used for the body donation program.

Will the family receive payment for donating the body of a loved one?

No. Federal laws prohibit us from paying for body donation.

What does it cost the family to donate a body?

Usually it costs you nothing. The only costs could be if the family chose a transport service other than the ones Legacy uses. You may also have to pay for a death certificate.

Are there any conditions that make the donation declined?

A few. We can't accept bodies with obesity, hepatitis, implants, recent large surgical scars, HIV and possibly pacemakers. The donor must also be 18 years of age or older to contribute to the program.

How is the body used?

Legacy uses bodies, or cadavers, to train doctors and nurses for surgery. We teach doctors how to perform surgery safely. We teach them advanced techniques that help patients. We also use cadavers to research techniques and tools that are used to save lives in cases of severe injury. Countless people live better lives because of the work we do and through the donations to the program.

What does the family need to do to donate the body of a loved one?

Once you have completed the donation form, we take care of everything. A funeral home takes the body to Legacy Institute for Surgical Education and Innovation, where the body is treated with the utmost respect.

What happens to the body?

Bodies are cremated by a funeral home; the ashes are returned to the family within one year.

What is the first step?

Please contact us at:

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