

BioGift Frequently Asked Questions

Who is BioGift Anatomical?

BioGift Anatomical, Inc. is a whole body donation program for medical research and education. BioGift must comply with all federal, state, and local laws that apply to organ and tissue donation. BioGift protects the confidentiality of its donors in accordance with Title 45, Part 46 of the United States code of Federal Regulations. We are regulated by the Oregon Health Authority.

Is registering to donate ahead of time necessary?

No. Making arrangements to donate ahead of time is of great benefit to the surviving family needing to handle the death arrangements; however, the legal next-of-kin has the authority to donate their loved one's body after the death has occurred. BioGift will accept a next-of-kin consent provided the immediate family is in agreement to donate.

Who may donate their body to science?

The BioGift Program is open to almost everyone regardless of age. BioGift will decline cases where the donor is known to have an infectious communicable disease such as HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B or C, sepsis, MRSA (a blood infection) or tuberculosis. Other circumstances that may exclude an individual from donation include: recent chemotherapy or radiation treatments, morbid obesity, excessive edema (fluid retention), and severe traumatic injury. Rarely, other unusual circumstances may cause BioGift to decline a case; however, we will make every reasonable effort to accept the donation.

How long does it take for BioGift's program to be completed?

Generally, BioGift is able to have the body cremated within six weeks. Certified copies of the death certificate from the State may take four weeks or more, but this varies from state to state and county to county.

Are there any costs to the family associated with the donation?

No. Transportation of the body, filing of a legally required death certificate, cremation after the donation process and return of the cremated remains to the family are all charges incurred by BioGift as part of the donation process.

What costs to the family are not associated with the donation?

The family is financially responsible for any type of service they would hold and any merchandise they choose to purchase.

How will BioGift be notified at the time of my death?

Whether the donor has been pre-registered or the legal next-of-kin will sign a consent form, BioGift must be notified immediately of the death. This can be done through a family member or caregiver. Once BioGift is informed of the death, we will begin the process of transporting the body to our facility. While BioGift works with many funeral homes, there is no guarantee that BioGift can accept the donation if the family has already selected a funeral home for transportation arrangements.

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