



SOUTHEAST TEXAS APPLIED
FORENSIC SCIENCE FACILITY
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY



WILLED BODY DONATION PROGRAM POLICY

The donation of a person's body after death is a tremendous gift. We are grateful for everyone who expresses an interest in body donation.

Please read the following policies of the Southeast Texas Applied Forensic Science Facility. After reading the information, please sign and date.

1. Unlike medical schools, we **do not** return remains to a family, unless pre-arranged. The skeletal remains are a very important component to our research and teaching programs in forensic science.
2. The Southeast Texas Applied Forensic Science Facility reserves the right to decline donations of individuals who have some form of infectious disease such as HIV, tuberculosis, hepatitis of any kind, or antibiotic resistant infections such as MRSA, even if contracted after donation is arranged.
3. Donors with an infectious disease who still wish to donate may do so by choosing to have their remains cremated. Cremains provide an invaluable learning resource. People choosing this option should contact us prior to making arrangements. This allows us to work with the crematory involved to ensure the remains are not pulverized. The family must assume responsibility for the cost of cremation.
4. We will arrange transportation to our facility if the deceased is located within the state of Texas **and** within 200 miles of Huntsville. Outside of Texas or more than 200 miles from Huntsville, the donor or donor's family must make arrangements for the transportation of the body.
5. We are unable to transport from a private residence. The donor's family must arrange for transportation and assume responsibility for the cost. We will transport a body from a hospital, funeral home, forensic center, or some healthcare facilities that are within the geographic limits stated above.
6. Signed donation documents or releases must be executed prior to transportation to the Southeast Texas Applied Forensic Science Facility. These documents may be a faxed copy, but the original must be sent as soon as possible. Your donation paperwork will not be complete until originals are returned.
7. Pre-donor paperwork (while donor is living) needs to be completed and returned to the Southeast Texas Applied Forensic Science Facility in order for a file to be established. Changes of address or medical status should be sent to keep donor files up to date.
8. Pre-donor paperwork needs information and signature of two witnesses to verify the donor's signature, but does not need to be notarized.

9. All information provided on the Body Donation documents is kept confidential.
10. If you have any questions or concerns that have not been addressed in this policy letter, please feel free to contact us at 936-294-2310 or stiafs@shsu.edu.

I have read, understand, and agree to the policy of the Southeast Texas Applied Forensic Science Facility's Willied Body Donation Program.

Printed Name of Donor/Next of kin/ Executor/ Physician

Signature of Donor/Next of kin/ Executor/ Physician

Street Address, City, State, Zip code, Phone number with area code

Date

Printed Name of Witness

Signature of Witness

Street Address, City, State, Zip code, Phone number with area code

Date

Printed Name of Witness

Signature of Witness

Street Address, City, State, Zip code, Phone number with area code

Date

Sam Houston State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution