



Helpful Instructions for the Legal Next of Kin after the Death

At this point, you have filled out and notarized our donation forms. You have also worked with your funeral home and provided them with the documents necessary to allow your loved one to be transferred to our facility. The following bullet points are items we like to highlight in order to assist you during this process.

- After death and upon completion of the death certificate by the proper authorities, your loved one should be transferred to a funeral home as early as possible.
- While in most instances, the funeral home director is aware of your donation wishes, it is recommended that you notify the funeral home upon the death of your loved one with certified copies of your donation paperwork in hand.
- To reiterate, the paperwork provides the documentation necessary for your anatomical gift donation to Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) Human Identity and Trauma Analysis Program to be completed. Although we prefer that your loved one is **NOT** embalmed (i.e., fixed or preserved) we will accept embalmed donations. Also, the funeral home director should be told to notify Dr. Heather Walsh-Haney prior to transporting the body to its final disposition. For this purpose, the funeral home director should telephone: Dr. Heather Walsh-Haney, Telephone: (239) 590-7693
- The cost of transportation is the responsibility of the family or estate of the deceased. Prices for these services are determined by the individual funeral homes. FGCU nor Dr. Walsh-Haney have jurisdiction in this matter. You may want to discuss arrangements with more than one funeral director. Also, donors should **NOT** be delivered in a casket.
- FGCU reserves the right to decline any human remains donation for any reason at its sole discretion.
- Importantly, questions concerning the cause and manner of death must be directed to the medical examiner.
- After being used for education or research purposes, the donation will be accessioned into the skeletal collection maintained by the FGCU Human Identity and Trauma Analysis Program under the direction of Heather Walsh-Haney, PhD, D-ABFA, pursuant to §765.510, et seq., Fla. Stat.