

Questionnaires for Body Donation

Q.1 Who can donate the body?

Ans: Any legal Indian citizen can donate the body.

Q.2 What are the requirements for body donation?

Ans: (i) One can pledge for body donation at any time during his life.

(ii) Body of a person can be donated after death by legal heirs.

Q.3 How can one pledge for body donation before death?

Ans: A Body Donation Programme exists in the Department of Anatomy of all medical colleges in Delhi. You have to contact the Anatomy Department for the same.

Q.4 What does one have to do for body donation?

Ans: One has to fill the Will Form available in the Department and submit the same to the Department. The Department will issue a Donor Card, where all the details regarding body donation will be available.

Q.5 How bodies can be donated after death?

Ans: Please inform the Department of Anatomy about the death. The faculty of the Department will ask certain questions. If the faculty is satisfied then the family of the deceased will be asked to get a death certificate from a registered medical practitioner and inform the local police station about the death. These documents are to be shown to the anatomy department during the time of donation. An official identity (voter/ ADHAR/ration card) of the deceased and accompanying persons are also to be showed to the department.

Q.6 Who will collect the body after death?

Ans: The Department of Anatomy will collect the body from the place of death. If vehicle is not available, the relatives of the deceased would be requested to bring the body to the department.

Q.7 Under what circumstances is a body rejected?

Ans: If a person dies due to burn, accident and certain contagious diseases like active Tuberculosis, hepatitis B, AIDS, tetanus, gas gangrene etc., the body is not suitable for medical education and teaching. Therefore, it is not accepted.

Q.8 How much time is given for donation after death?

Ans: The body should be sent as early as possible to the Department. Ideally, the body has to reach the anatomy department within 8-10 hrs after death, as the process of decomposition starts immediately after death in the body.

Q.9 Can the organs of the body be used after death?

Ans: Yes, the eyes can be donated up to 8 hrs after death. The other organs cannot be donated after death. Bodies in which postmortem examination has been performed are not suitable for teaching anatomy.

Q.10 How is the body preserved for teaching purposes?

Ans: The body is chemically treated with formalin. This is a chemical that fixes the tissues of the body. This process is called embalming and it can preserve the body for years.

Q.11 For how long the bodies are preserved for dissection?

Ans: It depends upon the availability of bodies in the department. The body may be used within one month after embalming or it may be kept in the preservative fluid (formalin) for one or two years before being used for teaching anatomy.

Q.12 What do you do with the remains of the body after study?

Ans: Currently, the body parts are incinerated.

Q.13. Can ashes be returned to the relatives?

Ans: No.

Q.14. Can a relative see the body after donation?

Ans: Yes, viewing of the body is allowed for up to 48 hours after embalming.

Q.15 If the children (legal heirs) of the deceased stay abroad who can donate the body?

Ans: In these circumstances, the relatives inform the children or next to kin. They in turn can send their consent by email or fax to the department. The formalities are completed after the children (legal heirs) reach the country.

Q.16 What about the bodies of the persons who die in old age homes?

Ans: The caretakers of the old age homes bring the body to the department.

Q.17 Can a body of the person be donated even if he/she did not fill the body donation (“will form”) form?

Ans: Yes, after completion of certain formalities the body can be donated.

Q. 18. What are these formalities?

Ans: The relatives of the deceased collect a valid death certificate. At the time of donation close relatives (nearest kin) fills up the body donation form and had over the photocopies of the said documents. The official identity of the deceased, donor and witnesses are also recorded.

Q.19. If one of the son or daughter of the deceased does not agree for donation, what is done?

Ans: The body is not accepted until all nearest kith and kin unanimously decide about donation.

Q. 20. What is the best way to avoid this kind of situation?

Ans: Ideally, after death of a person the body becomes a property of the state. To avoid all legal complications the donor pledges his/her will in a ‘Non judicial stamp paper’ as it is done in cases of movable or immovable properties.

Q.21. Can a small representative of the body part be given for any religious purposes?

Ans: Yes, the hair or nails can be given to the relatives for completion of religious rituals.

Q.22. What document is given to the relatives after body donation?

Ans: An Appreciation Certificate is given by the department immediately after donation, which can be submitted to the MCD/NDMC for obtaining death certificate.

Q.23. Is a 'no objection' (NOC) from the police required for body donation?

Ans: As embalming changes colour and chemical composition of body fluids, it will destroy all evidence of any foul play before death. Therefore information regarding donation and embalming should be send to the local police.

Q. 24. If a police NOC is not available, what should be the course of action?

Ans: Inform the police station about the donation.

Q. 25. In the case of the death of a child, whose parents would like to donate the body, is the procedure the same?

Ans: Yes