

What are the Missouri laws concerning gift body donation?

The gift of one's body after death is governed by the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act of the state of Missouri, which became law in 1969. Sections 194.210 to 194.290 of the Missouri Revised Statutes are cited as the Act. It has provided uniformity with similar laws of other states.

What is the Memorial Service?

Each spring (in May) a memorial service for the donors is held on campus. At the service, the college remembers the lives of those members of the community who have donated as well as their families and friends.

Who and how does one become a gift body donor?

Any individual who is at least 18 years of age can become a gift body donor under the stated conditions. A donation of another's body may be made after death by an attorney in fact under the durable power of attorney, by the next of kin or by a guardian. Logan is the only school in St. Louis that receives a gift body donated after death.

What if I change my mind?

The intent to be a gift body donor may be revoked at any time. Just notify the Secretary for Anatomical Donations.

What if my family disagrees with my wishes to donate after I die?

The Gift Body Program encourages all donors to share their wish for whole body donation with their family members. However, if the next of kin does not wish to carry out the donor's wishes, the Gift Body Program will abide.

Are all bodies accepted by the gift body program?

Bodies with a communicable disease, such as HIV, hepatitis, tuberculosis, etc, obesity (height and weight proportionate), decomposition, and extreme emaciation will not be accepted under any circumstances.

If my body is autopsied can it still be donated?

If the question of an autopsy arises, the family should understand that permission must be received from the Basic Science Division. The basic teaching of the organization of the human body is best learned from the careful study of the unautopsied body.

If my organs are acceptable for transplant to a living individual can my body still be donated?

No. Organs (other than eyes) may not be removed for transplant.

What are the costs involved?

The only expense that the family or estate incurs when there is a gift body is the transportation by a funeral director or transporting company. It is suggested that inquiry about the charges for transportation be made prior to authorizing delivery. Logan does not assume expenses.

What happens to the body?

The body will be prepared for use by the Anatomy Department. Following the completion of studies the body will be cremated.

Can my family have the ashes returned for burial? What happens to the ashes that are not returned to the family?

Families may request the cremains but the decision to receive cremains must be made at the time the body is received by Logan University. Two contact numbers are required. The ashes or cremains not returned to the family are buried at Holy Cross in Ellisville, Mo. At the site there is one common grave marker with the following inscription:

"In memory and thanksgiving, the administration, students, faculty and staff of Logan University express appreciation to the families of those who have donated bodies. This precious gift has allowed students of chiropractic to study the science of the human body." The location at Holy Cross is: Interment Number 72974, Grave location 1, Section 2, and Lot L.

What happens if I die away from the St. Louis metropolitan area?

If a gift body donor dies outside of the St. Louis metropolitan area the same policies hold as if the death occurred in the St. Louis area. The Secretary for Anatomical Donations must be contacted by the funeral home outside of St. Louis for proper procedures. If the family does not want to donate to Logan because of the distance and costs, the Secretary for Anatomical Records will recommend another Medical School with a similar gift body program.

Can there be a funeral service with the body present if my body is donated to Logan?

Following death, the body needs to be transported to Logan as soon as possible for proper preparation. Families are encouraged to have a memorial service, depending upon their own faith and beliefs, shortly after the death without the body present.

How do I become a future donor?

Donor forms can be requested from the Basic Science Division by calling (636) 230-1735 or emailing donation@logan.edu.