



## AN UPDATE ON BODY DISPOSITION...

### DONATION OPTIONS

#### ***Donation of the entire body***

Oregon Health Sciences University Body Donation Program: a consent form must be completed by the donor or a representative. Remains can be requested by survivors, usually returned after a year. *A back-up plan is necessary as the body may not be accepted.*

#### ***Donation of Corneas***

A "D" (Donor) on an Oregon driver's license triggers a call to the **Oregon Lions Eye Bank**. They will arrange for removal of the tissue. *This may be possible regardless of age.*

#### ***Donation of other body parts for transplantation***

Two Oregon groups facilitate this: **PNTB**, a federal program for transplantation. (503-494-5580)  
**Donate Life NW** (503-494-7888)

### BURIAL & OTHER OPTIONS

***Casket in Ground:*** At a formal cemetery, usually in a cement vault. Consumers have the right to bring their own casket.

***Green Options:*** Minimal protection in simple box *or* with only a shroud and body board. No vault.

***Veterans:*** Willamette and Roseburg cemeteries - free burial. [Oregon.gov/odva/benefits/pages/burial](http://Oregon.gov/odva/benefits/pages/burial)

***Cremation:*** Ashes are usually returned to survivors. Disposition of ashes can be arranged by the crematorium. They are required by federal law to accept urns supplied by survivors. An additive used during cremation can render ashes more alkaline for scattering and for growing plants and trees.

***NOTE:*** *Casket and urn prices are marked up as much as 400% at funeral homes.  
Compare Urn Prices: \$35 at Home Goods, \$200 at Funeral Home  
Biodegradable urns or small wooden or cardboard boxes are available.*



***Disposition at Sea:*** Can be arranged with U.S. Coast Guard. Contact the U.S. Navy Mortuary Service.

***Disposition on Private Land*** is legal, but regulated in Oregon (*known as backyard burial*). Such burials must be disclosed at sale of property and seller should be prepared to disinter the body.

***Composting\*:*** Is a special process to accelerate composting of body. Concentrated remains are returned to survivors to place in soil.

***Chemical Dissolution\*:*** Cremation-like remains are returned to the survivors.

\*These processes were recently legalized in Washington State but not yet in Oregon.

### ASSOCIATED INFORMATION

***Dona Practitioners:*** Are professionals who can be hired to assist with all or part of the end-of-life arrangements. They don't usually handle the body, but guide and assist survivors in preparing it for disposition.

***Green Burial:*** Is not a specific process, but an effort to apply environmentally conscious materials and processes to final body disposition. Affordable and simple, survivor involvement in the process can be high (by choice) and land preservation a positive outcome.