



DONATION OPTIONS

Donation of the Entire Body

OHSU Body Donation Program www.ohsu.edu/body-donation/how-donate-science

Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) Body Donation Program requires a consent form to be completed by the donor or a representative. Cremains can be requested by survivors, usually returned after a year. *A back-up plan is necessary as the body may not be accepted.* OHSU's Program must wait until notification of death before a medical assessment, usually done over the phone, is performed to determine whether the body can be accepted into the program. Staff will arrange transportation from the place of death to OHSU for accepted donors. Their team will assist in the completion and filing of the death certificate.

Western University College of Osteopathic Medicine Body Donation Program 541-259-0256

There are three types of body donation currently available. Call to request Donor Packet Information.

- Organ Donation: If your body and organs are healthy, organ donation will save lives.
- Tissue Donation: Corneas can be donated to help others see. Skin can be used to help burn victims.
- Whole Body Donation: Donating your remains in their entirety will affect many lives because this gift will be used to educate healthcare professionals. Cremains will be scattered at sea or returned to survivors upon written request.

Organ Donor on Your Driver's License

A "D" on your driver license:

- will trigger a call to the Oregon Eye Bank (Lions VisionGift) to determine whether the bank can use eye tissue at that time. Donation of eye tissue does not interfere with usual funeral arrangements. No prior formal arrangements need to be made. This may be possible regardless of age.
- will trigger hospital staff to contact an organ donation organization to see if organs can be used at that time. The person must have made prior arrangements to donate their organs. Family or responsible survivors need to have access to the person's documents of agreement to donate.
- does not trigger a call about donation of the whole body for educational use. The person must have made prior arrangements to donate their organs. Family or responsible survivors need to have access to the person's documents of agreement to donate. Alternate funeral arrangements with the body need to be planned as back-up if the donation is not needed at that time.

Donation of other body parts for transplantation

Two Oregon groups facilitate this:

The Pacific Northwest Transplant Bank a federal program for transplantation 503-494-5580
<http://pntb.org/what-we-do/donation-process/>

Donate Life NW maintains the donor registry for the state of Oregon 503-494-7888
www.donatelifenw.org

BURIAL & OTHER OPTIONS

Casket in Ground

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

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.

Green Options

Green burial, or natural burial, ensures the burial site remains as natural as possible in all respects. Interment of the bodies is done in a biodegradable casket, shroud, or in a favorite blanket with no embalming fluid and no concrete vaults. Affordable and simple, survivor involvement in the process can be high (by choice) and land preservation a positive outcome. www.cornerstonefuneral.com/green-burial-resources

Veterans

If you are a veteran, you can be buried in one of the 141 national cemeteries at no cost. Spouses and children of veterans could also qualify. Check with the US Department of Veteran's Affairs for eligibility requirements. www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial_benefits

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

Disposition at Sea

Cornerstone Funeral Services & Cremation in Boring was the first sea burial certified funeral provider in Oregon. Anyone is eligible for this type of burial. www.newenglandburialsatsea.com/burials-at-sea/
Military members and their dependent family members are eligible for a burial a sea through the US Navy. www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Support-Services/Casualty/Mortuary-Services/Burial-at-Sea/

Disposition on Private Land

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

A special process to accelerate composting of body. Concentrated remains are returned to survivors to place in soil.

Aqua Cremation (Alkaline Hydrolysis)

Uses water, alkaline chemicals, heat, and sometimes pressure and agitation, to accelerate natural decomposition. Cremation-like remains are returned to the survivors.

ASSOCIATED INFORMATION

Doula Practitioners

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.