



DONATION OPTIONS

Donation of the Entire Body

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 Body Donation Program must wait until notification of death before a medical assessment is performed, to determine whether the decedent can be accepted into the program. This procedure usually occurs over the phone with a nurse, hospice worker or caregiver and takes about 10 minutes. Staff will arrange transportation from the place of death to OHSU for accepted donors. The transportation team will assist in the completion and filing of the death certificate in the week following the death.

www.biogift.org

BioGift Anatomical is a whole body anatomical donation company that accepts whole body donations to facilitate medical research or education only. They do not accept anatomical donations for transplant. Donors must register with BioGift. At the time of death, survivors should contact BioGift immediately. A BioGift representative will go through a medical interview with the next-of-kin to determine if the donor can be accepted into the program. If the donor qualifies, BioGift will arrange for transport to their facility. After the process is finished in 8-12 weeks, the next-of-kin will receive the cremated remains and two certified copies of the death certificate.

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:

The Pacific Northwest Transplant Bank a federal program for transplantation
503-494-5580

Donate Life NW maintains the donor registry for the state of Oregon
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.

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

<https://www.cornerstonefuneral.com/green-burial-resources>

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.

Veterans

https://www.cem.va.gov/cem/burial_benefits/

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.

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

www.mynavyhr.navy.mil/Support-Services/Casualty/Mortuary-Services/Burial-at-Sea/

Can be arranged with U.S. Coast Guard. Contact the U.S. Navy Mortuary Service.

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.

**These processes were recently legalized in Washington State and will be legal in Oregon in July 2022.*

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.