



McGill

Faculty of
Medicine

BODY DONOR PROGRAM

For Teaching and Research





DONATING YOUR BODY FOR TEACHING AND RESEARCH

Bodies donated to science play a crucial role in the teaching of medical and science students in our universities, as well as in a variety of important medical research studies. Teaching and research institutions such as McGill University are indebted to the generosity of individuals who choose to make this invaluable contribution to the advancement of medical research.

Through these donations, our university students in the health sciences have the opportunity to receive important lessons in human anatomy, work first-hand with the human body, and practice the many techniques that will be essential to them in their future medical and scientific practices, including anesthesiology, neurology, radiology, and emergency medicine. Body donation is also essential for medical specialists and healthcare professionals in the development of new techniques and approaches in health care or surgical intervention.





ARE THERE COSTS RELATED TO BODY DONATION?

There is no cost to either the donor or his/her family. Exceptionally, charges may apply in the following circumstances:

- The distance travelled to collect the body surpasses a distance of 60 km from McGill University.
- It is the wish of the family to retrieve the donor's ashes following the completion of the studies. In this case, an administrative fee of \$150 will be required by the funeral home where the ashes will be held.

IS THERE AN AGE LIMIT FOR BODY DONATION?

There is no maximum age limit for participation in the Body Donor Program. The minimum age for donation is 18 years old.

DO I NEED TO SUBMIT DOCUMENTS OR COMPLETE FORMS IN ORDER TO DONATE MY BODY?

No documentation is required by McGill University, should you decide upon body donation. A signed body donor card (included with this booklet) serves as the official and only means necessary to confirm authorization to donate.

CAN I ALSO DONATE MY ORGANS?

Due to the nature of the teaching and studies that work with the bodies, it is important that the body be unaffected by organ removal. Therefore, the donor must choose between organ donation and body donation.

CAN A VIEWING OF THE BODY BE HELD AT THE FUNERAL HOME PRIOR TO DONATION?

Since the body must be received by the University within 48 hours, funeral arrangements or viewing of the body following death and prior to donation are unfortunately not possible.

CAN MY FAMILY AND LOVED ONES OPPOSE MY DECISION?

It is very important that you communicate your wish to donate your body to your family and loved ones and include them in your decision. Those with whom you have discussed your wishes will be able to immediately confirm your consent to donate upon your death, which facilitates the donation process.

CAN A FAMILY MEMBER OF LOVED ONE DONATE MY BODY EVEN WITHOUT A BODY DONOR CARD?

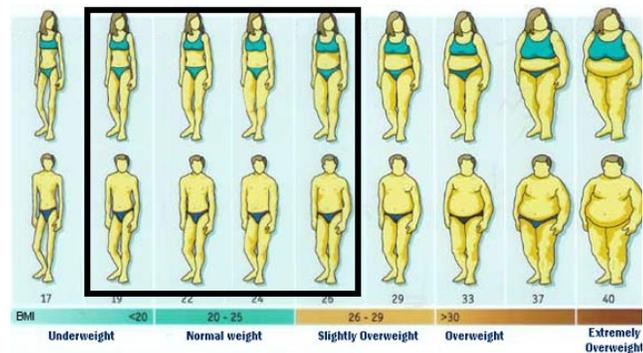


Without evidence that this is contrary to the deceased's wishes, the family may make a request of the attending healthcare professional after death to begin body donation procedures by filling out the requisite form that will be provided to them. A lost or incomplete Body Donor Card would therefore not necessarily preclude donation.

ARE BODIES EVER REFUSED?

Bodies can be refused if they do not meet the criteria set forth by the University, as enumerated below:

1. The body must not exceed certain maximum height and weight limits. (Please consult the Body Mass Index chart further on for more information).



Note that a BMI of 19 to 29 is acceptable for men and a BMI of 19 to 28 is acceptable for women

HEIGHT feet/ inches	cm	WEIGHT (lbs)																																
		97	103	110	117	123	130	136	143	150	156	163	169	176	183	189	196	202	209	216	222	229	235	241	247	254	260	267	273	279	285	291		
6'3"	192.5	12	13	13	14	15	16	16	17	18	18	19	20	20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	29	29	30	31	32	33	34	34	35	36	37
6'2"	187.5	13	13	14	15	16	17	18	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41
6'1"	185	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
6'0"	182.5	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
5'11"	180	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45
5'10"	177.5	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
5'9"	175	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
5'8"	172.5	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
5'7"	170	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
5'6"	167.5	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47
5'5"	165	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47
5'4"	162.5	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
5'3"	160	17	18	20	21	22	23	24	25	27	28	29	30	31	32	34	34	36	37	38	39	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	
5'2"	157.5	18	19	20	21	23	24	24	26	27	29	29	31	32	33	34	36	37	38	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54
5'1"	155	18	20	21	22	23	24	26	27	28	29	31	32	33	34	36	37	38	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
5'0"	152.5	19	20	21	23	24	25	27	28	29	31	32	33	34	36	37	38	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
4'11"	150	20	21	22	24	24	26	28	29	30	32	33	34	36	37	38	40	41	42	44	45	46	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	
4'10"	147.5	20	22	23	24	26	27	28	29	31	33	34	35	37	38	40	41	42	44	45	46	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	
4'9"	145	21	22	24	25	27	28	29	31	32	34	35	37	38	39	41	42	44	45	47	48	49	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	
4'8"	142.5	22	23	24	26	28	29	31	32	33	34	36	38	39	41	42	44	45	47	48	49	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	

2. The body must not be that of a person who has a contagious disease (e.g. Hepatitis A/B/C, AIDS, MRSA, Septicemia, Septic Shock, SARS, C-difficile, acute jaundice, etc.).
3. The body must not be embalmed or have undergone an autopsy.



4. The body must not have undergone major surgery during the two months preceding death.
5. The body must be in an acceptable state of preservation. The transport of the body to McGill must normally be carried out within 48 hours following death. This time may be reduced in periods of heat wave or in circumstances where refrigeration is not possible.
6. The body must not have been used for major organ donation (e.g. kidney, lung, liver, or heart). However, a corneal transplant or uterine removal, for example, would not prevent a body from being accepted.
7. The body must not be that of a victim of a major burn or major accident.
8. The body has not been disfigured by disease (malformation of limbs)

WHAT TO DO UPON DEATH?

IMPORTANT: It is important to keep the body donor card with you at all times (in your wallet with other forms of personal identification). Since the body must be transferred to the University within a maximum of 48 hours, it is necessary to have the card readily available so that

there are no delays in the transport of the donor's body.

In case of death at a hospital or at a health and social services institution:

1. Family members or loved ones must inform the attending healthcare professional of the deceased's wishes for body donation.
2. The designated official at the healthcare institution will contact McGill University or, exceptionally, the funeral home directly (outside University office hours), in accordance with established protocol. Most healthcare professionals are familiar with the procedure.

In case of death at home or at a seniors' residence:

1. Family members, the attending doctor, or loved ones must first contact 9-1-1 in order to confirm the death.
2. Family members or residence staff must contact the McGill Body Donor Program or, exceptionally, the funeral home directly (outside University office hours) in order to inform them of the death and consent to donate.

WILL THE IDENTITY OF THE DONOR BE REVEALED TO STUDENTS AND RESEARCHERS?



Body donation is an anonymous gesture. Personal information is recorded and accessed only by a restricted number of authorized personnel and solely for administrative purposes. Students of the University working with donors must adhere to a Code of Ethics stipulating respect of all donors, and the name of the donor always remains anonymous for students. Further information on the Code of Ethics can be provided upon request. Please be aware that images of the bodies may be used as visual aids for teaching purposes through a secure online system. The identity of the body in the images always remains anonymous.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE BODY AFTER STUDIES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED?

The study generally lasts between one and two years. The study dates follow the cycle of the academic year (September through June). Therefore, if the University receives a body in mid-December, for example, the study will not begin before the following September. Once the study is complete, the body is cremated, and the ashes are buried in the institution's private plot at Mount Royal Cemetery, at the cost of the University. Please note that it is also possible to request that the ashes be returned to the family upon completion of the study. Arrangements for the return of ashes will be made between the

University and the family following the reception of the donation. In this case, an administrative fee of \$150 will be required by the funeral home, as indicated above.

WILL THE RESULTS OF THE RESEARCH BE MADE AVAILABLE TO MY FAMILY/FRIENDS?

Information on the specific procedures performed upon the body is not revealed after the studies. However, all donations are used by McGill professors and researchers for the basic teaching of anatomy, or by medical specialists who may want to investigate new surgical techniques.

DO YOU HOLD ANY KIND OF CEREMONY ONCE STUDIES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED?

All families of body donors are invited to our annual Commemorative Service, held each year in the month of June. At the time of the donor's death, we request notification from family members of the names and addresses of those who may wish to attend in the future, so that invitations may be issued accordingly. The donor will be honored during the summer following the completion of the studies.



BODY DONOR PROGRAM

Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology

Phone Number:

(514) 398-2575

From:

MONDAY-FRIDAY
9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Address:

3640 University St. Room M-30, Montreal, QC,
H3A 0C7

Web Site:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/anatomy/body-donor-program>

BLYTHE BERNIER FUNERAL HOME:

(514) 495-8082



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