



Whole Body Donation Information

The mission of FACTS is to advance forensic anthropology through world-class education, research, and outreach.

What Do We Do?

- Conduct scientific research in human decomposition and skeletal biology
- Train law enforcement and future forensic scientists
- Provide expertise in human decomposition and human skeletal analyses

Whole Body Donation Facts

The gift of one's body is a generous gift and an invaluable resource for education and scientific research.

Who is eligible to donate?

- FACTS accepts body donations under the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act. We accept pre-registered donors and body donations made by the legal next-of-kin
- FACTS will accept bodies that have been autopsied
- FACTS will accept individuals that have donated organs
- FACTS will not accept donors that have been embalmed, weigh over 500 pounds, or

have an active communicable disease.

- Donations not meeting these requirements can be donated as cremations

Are donor records confidential?

- Yes, FACTS protects the confidentiality of its donors

What is the donor body used for?

- FACTS uses gifted bodies for scientific research related human decomposition and skeletal biology
- The gifted body is usually either placed on the surface or buried to decompose and the process of decomposition is documented
- After decomposition, the body is processed and the skeleton is accessioned into the Texas State University Donated Skeletal Collection

Are my remains returned to my family?

- No, the skeleton is kept in perpetuity and used for further research and education purposes

What is the cost to the family?

- There is no cost unless the donor must be temporarily stored, transported more than a 100 miles, or cremated
- Donors outside the 100 mile radius of San Marcos, Texas are responsible for arranging transportation to the Austin Airport or to FACTS

Donation Process

- Visit our website for donation forms and answers to FAQs
- Inform your family of your wishes to donate
- Complete the appropriate "living" or "next-of-kin" donor packet and return to FACTS
- Complete your donor card and carry it with you.
- Upon death, FACTS will pick up your body from a funeral home, hospital, or medical examiner's office within 100 miles of San Marcos or from the Austin Airport. We cannot pick up bodies from a private residence.