

## **BODY DONATION - FAQs**

**Department of Anatomy**  
**Maulana Azad Medical College, New Delhi**  
(updated 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020)

**1. Who can do body donation?**

Anyone, who is more than 18 years of age. In case the deceased is a minor, any of the surviving parents can do the donation.

**2. Can any organ of my body be used for organ transplant?**

No, the organs when received in the department of Anatomy cannot be used for transplantation.

**3. What happens to my body after it is received in the department of Anatomy, MAMC?**

After completing the formalities of documents, the body is first of examined and identified as per the available documents, it is then perfused with a preservation fluid to prepare it for teaching and research.

**4. What type of research will my body donation contribute to?**

After reviewing medical/surgical history and examination of the body, the experts will determine the method of teaching and likely research possible on the body. Mostly body is used for teaching human anatomy to medical and allied science students and to train surgeons for various surgical and instrumentation techniques.

**5. Can I request which research study I would like my body donation to benefit?**

No, but you can be assured that your donation will be used for benefit of medical science as a tool of education and research. It will be have an enormous contribution in advancements in techniques in medical science. Greatest of respect is given during the period of study and thereafter also.

**6. How does body donation help medical science? What type of research or education does body donation support?**

Everything a medical doctor knows about human body is what he/she has learned through the study of human body. Thus body donation provides the most important study material for understanding the structure of the human body, their functions, development and practice of invasive surgical techniques for the development of newer treatment techniques for improved patient care.

**7. Who is responsible for providing transportation?**

The department of Anatomy, Maulana Azad Medical College will provide/facilitate for arranging the transfer of dead body from the residence to the college premises as and when informed, depending upon the availability of the staff.

**8. Would there be any reason why you would not accept my body as a donation?**

MAMC has the discretion to accept or decline body for donation considering many factors apart from any of the following.

- a) Certain illnesses such as sepsis, antibiotic resistant infections, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B/C, COVID-19
- b) Post mortem examined (autopsied) body
- c) Bodies that have been mutilated due to accidents.
- d) Unreasonable lapse of time between death and discovery of body.

**9. Can a body on which post-mortem has been done be donated?**

Such bodies usually are not accepted because they cannot be used for teaching and research due to damage to normal anatomy. However possible under following condition, if donor approach Police to issue a no objection certificate and Anatomy department on examination finds that the body can be made useful for teaching and research.

**10.If there is a Medico Legal Case (MLC), can body donation still be done?**

Yes, body donation can be done in such situations but a No Objection Certificate has to be obtained from the Police by the donor.

**11.What are the documents required if the death occurs in a hospital and it is not a MLC case?**

The documents required for body donation at the time of death are same in case of hospital or at home.

- a) Application for donation made by one near relative, signed by another near relative, as witness, to the head of Anatomy department, MAMC. In case where spouse is alive, declaration from him/her is mandatory.
- b) Death certificate issued by the registered medical practitioner, specifying time and cause of death, with name and seal.
- c) Photo identity proof of the deceased(Voter I card/Adhaar card/ Passport/ Driving licence)
- d) Photo identity proof of the applicant(Voter I card/Adhaar card/ Passport/ Driving licence)
- e) Police Information – informing local police about the donation to MAMC (Format of above letters are available of MAMC website under Body Donation, [www.mamc.ac.in](http://www.mamc.ac.in))

**12. Who are called the NEAR RELATIVES?**

NEAR RELATIVES means any of these -Spouse, Son, Daughter, Father, Mother, Brother, Cousin brother, Sister, Cousin sister, Grand father, Grand mother, Grand son, Grand daughter.

**13. Do you return remains of my body to my family after you are finished with the research?**

No. Usually the whole body is used for teaching and research however if some part remains such body parts are sent for incineration, with due respect, as per biomedical disposal norms and guidelines of Government of NCT of Delhi.

**14. I want to donate my body, but my family really does not like this idea or do not agree with me. If I do the paperwork and get it into my will, can my family prevent my final wish of body donation?**

- a. Regardless of what you have arranged, signed or instructed, your family or next-of-kin will have the final say. Therefore it is strongly urged that you **MUST** inform them about your wish to donate your body and get them motivated to fulfil your desired wish.
- b. You can share and discuss this FAQs with them. If you so desire, the department of Anatomy, MAMC can arrange a meeting with them for any clarification in this regard.

**15. Do I need to tell my family now that I want to donate my body?**

Yes, it is strongly recommended that you discuss your wish with your family. If you do not tell them, they may not be aware about your wish to donate and in emotionally charged atmosphere, at the time of death, may fail to comply with your wish as they are unaware or ill prepared.

**16. Do I have to be 'pre-registered' to donate my body?**

It is not necessary but desirable, as it helps in sensitisation of the family. Your family or a family representative can contact us after your death and make arrangements.

**17. Do I have to have the donation forms notarized?**

No, the donation forms do not need to be notarized.

**18. If I have no near relative, can I still register for body donation?**

Yes, in that case it would be mandatory that you should register now in the body donation programme in the department of Anatomy, MAMC. On receiving application for body donation at the time of death an NOC from the Police will be required.

**19. Where all can registration for body donation be done?**

All the Government teaching medical institutions, under their respective department of Anatomy, maintain a live register where any person during his/her life time can register for whole body donation.

**20. How much does it cost to donate my body to your program?**

Neither any fee is charged nor is any monetary incentive given for body donation.

**21. If I have pledged to donate my body to MAMC, New Delhi, am I bound to donate my give my body to MAMC only?**

No, there is no binding on your relatives to give the body to MAMC only, they can donate to any other medical college, even if you are registered in the MAMC body donation programme.

**22. If I go to another state/ country and have pledged my body to MAMC does the body need to be brought to MAMC, Delhi?**

It may not be possible to bring the body to Delhi, but your relative can contact any nearby medical college, where your body can be received under their body donation programme as per the laws of that state/country.

**23. I belong to another state, can I donate my body to MAMC, Delhi.**

Yes you can, if your relatives provide the necessary documents as per the guidelines of Government of NCT of Delhi.

**24. I live in a state other than Delhi, but I would like to donate my body to your institution. Do you take out-of-state donations?**

Yes, out-of-state donations are accepted. The body must be transported to MAMC by the family or next-of-kin and prior communication with the department of Anatomy, MAMC will be essential.

**25. Is my family issued a death certificate on donating the body**

No, the department of Anatomy only issues a certificate of donation.

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