

Unit Policy

Title

Exclusion of unclaimed bodies for anatomical education, research, or any other purposes by the Anatomical Gifts Program (“AGP” or the “program”).

Introduction

Purpose

The AGP may, from time to time, receive notice from a person or entity (including licensed funeral directors, funeral service licensees, or authorized personnel from the State of North Carolina or its local government units, including hospitals, nursing homes, other institutions, or the Commission of Anatomy) that a dead body is unclaimed.

This policy outlines the procedures for excluding unclaimed bodies by the AGP for medical education, research, or any other purpose.

Scope

This policy applies to all AGP staff and others who act on behalf of the AGP when accepting bodies for medical education, research, or any other purpose.

Policy

Policy Statement

The AGP will not accept custody of any unclaimed body for medical education, research, or any other purpose.

Upon receiving written or oral notice that a body is identified or classified as unclaimed, the AGP will promptly (i) notify the person or entity in possession of the unclaimed body that the unclaimed body is ineligible for the program and (ii) decline to accept the unclaimed body into the program. The AGP may communicate with the person or entity in possession of the unclaimed body orally or in writing.

Definitions

Unclaimed Body: “Unclaimed body” means any dead body deemed unclaimed under North Carolina law ([N.C.G.S. § 130A-415](#)). A dead body shall be deemed unclaimed if either of the following conditions apply:

1. No individual notifies the person in possession of the dead body within 10 days of the date of death that the individual wishes to dispose of the dead body.
2. All individuals who have expressed interest in arranging for disposition of the dead body have (i) ceased communicating with the person in possession of the dead body for five days, (ii) at least 10 days have

passed from the date of death, and (iii) the person in possession of the dead body has used reasonable efforts to contact all individuals interested in arranging for final disposition.

“Unclaimed body” does not mean a dead body for which the deceased has made a written gift to the UNC School of Medicine Anatomical Gifts Program or the UNC School of Medicine Body Donation Program.

Related Requirements

N/A

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