

The STA Tissue Process

1. Refer the (cardiac) death to STA at 1-800-201-0527.
2. STA does a basic screen then closes the referral or transfers the call to a medical screener to get more detailed information. (A referral number will be provided for your hospital records).
3. If the potential donor is medically suitable, a STA requestor (designated by your hospital) offers the option of donation to the family.
4. STA performs the recovery in your hospital's operating room.

ME & JP Cases

In some cases, STA may work with the Medical Examiner and/or the Justice of the Peace to ensure that donation is possible. Tissue donation can take place before an autopsy with the consent of the ME/JP and the family.

Our Common Goals

- ▶ Ensure that all families are given the opportunity to make an informed decision regarding donation.
- ▶ Save and improve lives through tissue donation.

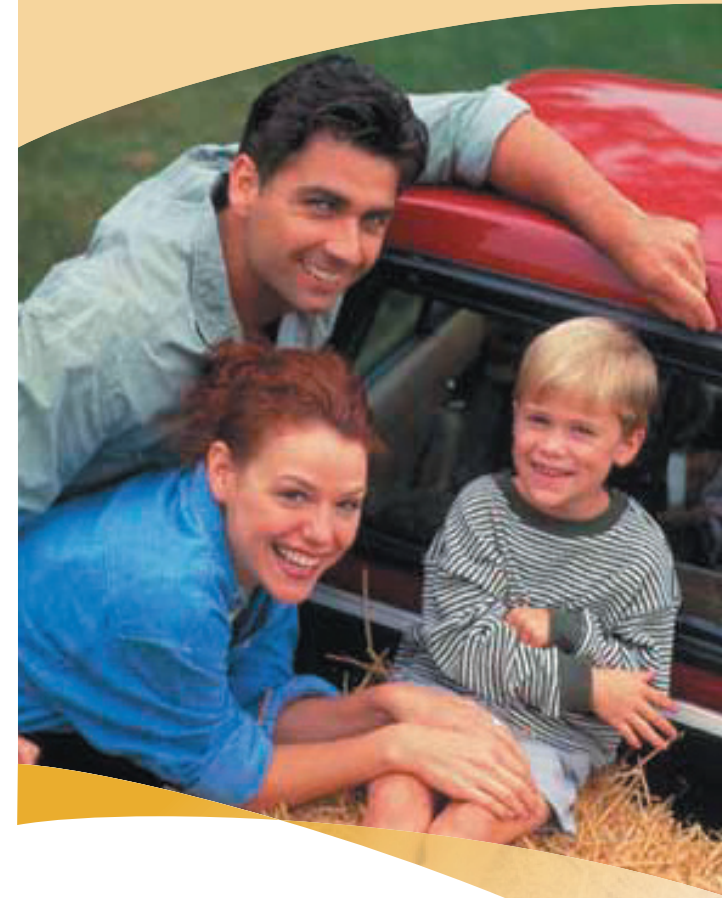
MISSION STATEMENT

Southwest Transplant Alliance exists to save and improve lives by providing organs and tissues for transplantation.

We distinguish ourselves by forging meaningful relationships with donor families and the communities we serve in order to realize every possible donation.

VISION STATEMENT

Every organ and tissue donation opportunity is realized as long as the need exists.



SOUTHWEST TRANSPLANT ALLIANCE
A NONPROFIT CORPORATION

3710 Rawlins • Suite 1100
Dallas, Texas 75219
800-788-8058
www.organ.org

Beaumont
Corpus Christi
El Paso
Galveston
Tyler

Giving the
TISSUE DONATION
gift of life



SOUTHWEST TRANSPLANT ALLIANCE
A NONPROFIT CORPORATION

Giving the gift of life

Tissue donation is good end-of-life care.

Many donor families have told us that they have found great comfort in the donation of their loved ones' tissues. To ensure that the families' wishes are honored, and to maximize tissue donation in your hospital, please keep in mind the following:

- ▶ **Call in the referral early.** Calling STA at the time of death will help us in evaluating the patient for donation.
- ▶ **Do not contact the ME, JP or funeral home prior to making the referral.** Doing so runs the risk of the body being picked up for autopsy or embalming therefore denying a family the opportunity to donate.
- ▶ **Do not mention donation.** Higher consent rates are obtained when our trained requestors offer the option of donation. In addition, the patient is screened for medical suitability before the next-of-kin is approached.

- ▶ **Obtain an accurate phone number** where the family can be reached. This will help us contact the family in a timely manner. (Sometimes the phone numbers listed in the chart are inaccurate).

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- ▶ **Why haven't I received an immediate call back from the screener?** Occasionally, the medical screener will be working on another referral and it may take a few minutes to get back with you.
- ▶ **How long does the medical screening take?** Most referrals will only require a quick initial screen. However, if a patient has been ruled-in as a potential tissue donor, the medical screening can take 5 to 10 minutes. The advanced screening is necessary to determine medical suitability and to ensure that any recovered tissue is safe for transplant.
- ▶ **What's the delay in moving the body out of the unit?** If your hospital does not have a morgue, we may need to arrange transport to another facility for recovery or refrigeration. The transporter, a funeral home, may or may not be the family's choice. It is okay to release the body because we will have consent from the family to transfer the patient.
- ▶ **Why is the body still in the morgue?** The process may be delayed due to difficulties in reaching the family if we do not have an accurate phone number. (Sometimes

donor families do not go straight home after they leave the hospital). This may be in addition to obtaining informed consent and completing a detailed medical/social history with the family.

Some Examples of Tissue Uses

A Single Tissue Donor Can Improve the Quality of Life for up to 75 People.

- ▶ **Corneas** may restore sight.
- ▶ **Heart Valves** replace failing valves in the heart. The majority of heart valves are used in children and women of childbearing age.
- ▶ **Tendons & Ligaments** return mobility and stabilize joints such as in knee reconstruction.
- ▶ **Bone** has many uses including spinal fusion, hip and knee repair, and facial/jaw reconstruction.
- ▶ **Veins and arteries** are used to increase circulation in heart bypass and limb salvage surgery.
- ▶ **Skin** is used as a life saving dressing for burn patients.
- ▶ **Fascia** is used to repair holes in heart tissue, retinal detachment repair, and rotator cuff repair.

