

MID-AMERICA TRANSPLANT SERVICES

MEDICAL EXAMINER/CORONER NON-HOSPITAL DEATH REFERRAL PROGRAM

PURPOSE: Offer families the opportunity to donate tissue donation of loved ones that do not expire in the hospital. To make available to transplant surgeons corneas, bone, skin, tendons, veins, and heart valves for transplant into recipients.

REFERRAL PROCEDURE:

1. ME/Coroner will contact the **HOTLINE (1-800-87-DONOR)** or 367-6767 on a 24-hour basis on cases meeting the following criteria:
 - deaths resulting from trauma or natural causes**
 - under age 85**
 - under 16 hours, since known time of death or last seen alive**
 - no AIDS or hepatitis**

2. The following information will be given to the Mid-America Transplant Services Communications Center Coordinator:
 - name of decedent**
 - age of decedent**
 - birth date to access donor registry info**
 - time of death or last seen alive**
 - any known medical history/cause of death**
 - if autopsy will be performed**
 - funeral home (if known)**
 - tissues that can be released for donation**
 - location of body**
 - who notified the family of the death of their loved one**
 - MTS will not communicate with family until death notification**
 - next-of-kin address/phone number**

3. If ME/Coroner staff does not obtain consent, MTS will contact legal next-of-kin via phone to offer the opportunity for donation. MTS can obtain donor registry info.

4. ME/Coroner staff will be informed if tissue consent is obtained and coordination of recovery, if necessary.

5. Heart pathology reports and/or slides are available from the heart valve processing center. Requests for either or both should be made to the MTS Communications Center at the time the case arrangements are being made.

[Contact Deb Lanter @ 1-888-376-4854 or 314-735-8200 for questions](mailto:deb.lanter@mts.org)

