

Autopsy Tissue Donation Logistics Checklist

1. Obtain consent to an autopsy donation for research purposes from the family

2. Contact researchers to confirm that they are interested in receiving tissue

- See [Kids v Cancer Researchers' page](#) to select researchers to receive tissue
- Donations to several researchers can be made from one autopsy
- Email researchers and request autopsy protocols. Review each protocol for:
 - timing requirements of autopsy (often within 12 hours of death)
 - tissue shipping requirements: fresh (in media on wet ice), frozen (on dry ice),
 - or fixed (in formalin or paraformaldehyde)

3. Contact the pathologists to provide them with background on the autopsy and tissue donation

- Alert pathologists to the likely timing
 - Review staffing of pathologists on weekends/nights
 - Obtain email/pager for pathologist to be contacted when death occurs
 - Provide researchers' email/phone numbers to pathologists
- Review the autopsy protocols, including:
 - Types of tissue/quantity of tissue/timing/resection technique
 - storage/shipment of tissue/FedEx number
 - Confirm pathologist has sterile drapes, gloves, scalpels, containers for tissue collection

3. Funeral parlor (for children who die at home)

- Contact funeral parlor early
 - Review timing requirements
 - Does funeral parlor use a third party for after-hours transportation?
If so, do they know timing requirements and morgue procedure?
 - Review whether there will be any additional legal authorizations required for transportation of a body across county/state lines, or for determination of death after hours for purposes of transportation
- Transportation expenses
 - Request a donation of free transport services from home to morgue and from morgue to the funeral parlor (almost all funeral parlors consent)
 - If denied, identify other sources of funding for transportation
- Morgue
 - Confirm hours, address, how to enter during closed hours
 - Obtain email/pager for person to contact during closed hours

4. After pronouncement of death

- Contact funeral home, pathologist, and researcher
- Confirm autopsy and shipment with family