



## Checklist to Aid in the Process of Brain Tissue Donation

You have made the selfless decision to become a brain donor upon death. So, what is next? Proper planning in advance can help ensure that your wishes are accounted for and honored at the time of your or a loved one's passing. The details of the process may vary from state to state.

To aid you, the following checklist was created to assist in putting your plans in place for a smooth process.

- Inform loved ones, doctors, caregivers, hospital/nursing home/home care/hospice, and attorney of your desire for tissue donation.
- Assure that you have a certified Living Will that specifically grants brain donation for research. Make certain document is readily available.

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

- Assure Power of Attorney (POA) and Health Care Directive documents are completed and readily available.

LOCATION: \_\_\_\_\_

- Consider a monetary gift to the Brain Donation Fund and/or including NAF in your will. These gifts will have a powerful impact on sustaining the Brain Donation Program for future generations. Your generosity will add to the legacy you are already leaving with your brain tissue donation.

**If you are interested in helping to fund this program, please click on this link:**  
[www.ataxia.org/BrainFund](http://www.ataxia.org/BrainFund).

**If you would like to include NAF in your will, click on this link:**  
<https://myimpact.ataxia.org/ways-to-give/gifts-that-cost-you-nothing-now/>

- Select a funeral home and discuss arrangements. Inform the funeral home of your desire to be a brain tissue donor. (When a tissue donation takes place, there are certain necessary requirements needed to be fulfilled by the funeral home.)

FUNERAL HOME CONTACT INFORMATION:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- As health declines, reconfirm the above and be certain hospital/nursing home/home care/hospice are fully aware that the donation will be taking place. Provide them with all the appropriate names and phone numbers (i.e., family members, POA, NAF contact, funeral home, etc.). If you enter hospice care, notify NAF (see contact information below) with the contact information for the hospice organization.



- Designate one person to contact NAF (see contact information below) as soon as death is imminent or has occurred.

At this point, the designated person will be put in touch with NAF's academic partner who will contact them to obtain a signature on an Informed Consent form. Once that has been received, our academic partner will then coordinate the process for the brain retrieval. Reminder: This must happen shortly after death occurs. When the retrieval has taken place, the tissue will be sent to NAF's academic partner's laboratory and the body will be delivered to the funeral home or wherever the family chooses. Keep in mind that tissue donation does not disrupt the timing and viewing for most traditional remembrance services and still allows for open casket if so desired.

- Family/friends you wish to have contacted upon death:

NAME/RELATIONSHIP	PHONE #'s

Completing the items on the checklist will ensure a smooth process and put your family members more at ease.

### **General Information about Brain Tissue Donation**

763.231.2750 | 763.285.6361  
[mary@ataxia.org](mailto:mary@ataxia.org) | [celeste@ataxia.org](mailto:celeste@ataxia.org)

**NAF General Office:** 763.553.0020

**Immediate Response Needed for Brain Tissue Donation**  
877.GoAtaxia [877.462.8294]