

2024

STATE OF NEBRASKA

**STATUTES RELATING TO
STATE ANATOMICAL BOARD, DISPOSAL OF DEAD BODIES
ANATOMICAL GIFTS**

NEBRASKA

Good Life. Great Mission.

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health
Licensure Unit

301 Centennial Mall South, First Floor
PO Box 94986
Lincoln, NE 68509-4986

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STATUTES PERTAINING TO STATE ANATOMICAL BOARD, DISPOSAL OF DEAD BODIES

71-1001. State Anatomical Board; members; powers and duties; State Anatomical Board Cash Fund; created; use; investment.

(1) The heads of the anatomy departments of the medical schools and colleges of this state, one professor of anatomy appointed by the head of the anatomy department from each medical school or college of this state, one professor of anatomy appointed from each dental school or college of this state, and one layperson appointed by the Department of Health and Human Services shall constitute the State Anatomical Board of the State of Nebraska for the distribution, delivery, and use of certain dead human bodies, described in section 71-4834, to and among such schools, colleges, and persons as are entitled thereto under such section.

(2) The board shall have power to (a) establish rules and regulations for its government and for the collection, storage, and distribution of dead human bodies for anatomical purposes and (b) appoint and remove its officers and agents.

(3) The board shall keep minutes of its meetings and shall cause a record to be kept of all of its transactions, of bodies received and distributed by it, and of the school, college, or person receiving every such body. The records of the board shall be open at all times to the inspection of each member of the board and to every county attorney within this state.

(4) There is hereby created the State Anatomical Board Cash Fund. The fund shall be under the University of Nebraska Medical Center for accounting and budgeting purposes only. The fund shall consist of revenue collected by the State Anatomical Board and shall only be used to pay for costs of operating the board. Any money in the fund available for investment shall be invested by the state investment officer pursuant to the Nebraska Capital Expansion Act and the Nebraska State Funds Investment Act.

Source: Laws 1929, c. 158, § 1, p. 551; C.S.1929, § 71-2801; R.S.1943, § 71-1001; Laws 1969, c. 570, § 1, p. 2314; Laws 1978, LB 583, § 1; Laws 1979, LB 98, § 2; Laws 1992, LB 860, § 2; Laws 1996, LB 1044, § 556; Laws 2007, LB296, § 464; Laws 2017, LB331, § 36; Laws 2019, LB559, § 1.

Effective Date: September 1, 2019

Cross References

- **Nebraska Capital Expansion Act**, see section 72-1269.
- **Nebraska State Funds Investment Act**, see section 72-1260.

71-1002. Repealed. Laws 2019, LB559, § 6.

71-1003. Board; dead human bodies; distribution.

The State Anatomical Board, or its duly authorized officers or agents, may take and receive dead bodies as provided in section 71-4834. The board shall distribute the bodies among the medical, chiropractic, osteopathic, and dental schools and colleges, and physicians and surgeons designated by the board, under such rules and regulations as may be adopted and promulgated by it. The number of bodies so distributed to such schools and colleges shall be in proportion to the number of students matriculated in the first-year work of such schools and colleges. If there are more bodies than are required by such schools and colleges, the board, or its duly authorized officers, may, from time to time, designate physicians and surgeons to receive such bodies, and the number of bodies they may receive, if such physicians and surgeons have complied with all rules and regulations which the board may adopt and promulgate for such disposition. All expenses incurred by the board in receiving, caring for, and delivering any such body shall be paid by those receiving such body.

Source: Laws 1929, c. 158, § 3, p. 552; C.S.1929, § 71-2803; R.S.1943, § 71-1003; Laws 1971, LB 268, § 2; Laws 2019, LB559, § 2.

Effective Date: September 1, 2019

Cross References

- **Board of Funeral Directing and Embalming**, distribution to and use by, see section 38-1417.

71-1004. Board; dead human bodies; transportation.

The State Anatomical Board may employ a carrier or carriers for the transportation of bodies, referred to in sections 71-1001 to 71-1007, and may transport such bodies, or order them to be transported, under such rules and regulations as it may adopt and promulgate.

Source: Laws 1929, c. 158, § 4, p. 553; C.S.1929, § 71-2804; R.S.1943, § 71-1004; Laws 2019, LB559, § 3.

Effective Date: September 1, 2019

71-1005. Repealed. Laws 2019, LB559, § 6.

71-1006. Repealed. Laws 2019, LB559, § 6.

71-1007. Board; purpose.

The purpose of the State Anatomical Board is to:

(1) Provide for the orderly receipt, maintenance, distribution, and use of human bodies used for medical education and research;

(2) Ensure that proper and considerate care is given to human bodies used for medical education and research; and

(3) Ensure that an orderly and equitable procedure is used for the allocation of human bodies to colleges and universities in Nebraska which provide medical education and research.

Source: Laws 1979, LB 98, § 1; Laws 2019, LB559, § 4.

Effective Date: September 1, 2019

STATUTES PERTAINING TO ANATOMICAL GIFTS

(a) UNIFORM ANATOMICAL GIFT ACT

71-4801. Repealed. Laws 2010, LB 1036, § 42.

71-4802. Repealed. Laws 2010, LB 1036, § 42.

71-4803. Repealed. Laws 2010, LB 1036, § 42.

71-4804. Repealed. Laws 2010, LB 1036, § 42.

71-4805. Repealed. Laws 2010, LB 1036, § 42.

71-4806. Repealed. Laws 2010, LB 1036, § 42.

71-4807. Repealed. Laws 2010, LB 1036, § 42.

71-4808. Blood; who may consent to donate. Any individual of sound mind and seventeen years of age or more may consent to donate whole blood for the purpose of injecting, transfusing, or transplanting such blood in the human body. No person seventeen or eighteen years of age shall receive compensation for any donation of whole blood without parental permission or authorization.

Source: Laws 1971, LB 799, § 8; Laws 1972, LB 1086, § 3; Laws 1977, LB 49, § 1; Laws 1992, LB 1178, § 9.

71-4809. Repealed. Laws 2010, LB 1036, § 42.

71-4810. Repealed. Laws 2010, LB 1036, § 42.

71-4811. Repealed. Laws 2010, LB 1036, § 42.

71-4812. Repealed. Laws 2010, LB 1036, § 42.

(b) MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

71-4813. Eye tissue; pituitary gland; removal; when authorized. (1) When an autopsy is performed by the physician authorized by the county coroner to perform such autopsy, the physician or an appropriately qualified designee with training in ophthalmologic techniques, as provided for in subsection (2) of this section, may remove eye tissue of the decedent for the purpose of transplantation. The physician may also remove the pituitary gland for the purpose of research and treatment of hypopituitary dwarfism and of other growth disorders. Removal of the eye tissue or the pituitary gland shall only take place if the:

(a) Autopsy was authorized by the county coroner;

(b) County coroner receives permission from the person having control of the disposition of the decedent's remains pursuant to section 30-2223; and

(c) Removal of eye tissue or of the pituitary gland will not interfere with the course of any subsequent investigation or alter the decedent's post mortem facial appearance.

(2) An appropriately qualified designee of a physician with training in ophthalmologic techniques or a funeral director and embalmer licensed pursuant to the Funeral Directing and Embalming Practice Act upon (a) successfully completing a course in eye enucleation and (b) receiving a certificate of competence from the Department of Ophthalmology of the University of Nebraska Medical Center may enucleate the eyes of the donor.

(3) The removed eye tissue or pituitary gland shall be transported to the Department of Health and Human Services or any desired institution or health facility as prescribed by section 38-1427.

Source: Laws 1983, LB 60, § 1; Laws 1985, LB 130, § 2; Laws 1996, LB 1044, § 683; Laws 2007, LB296, § 599; Laws 2007, LB463, § 1220; Laws 2010, LB1036, § 36; Laws 2014, LB998, § 17. Effective Date: April 10, 2014.

71-4814. Organ and tissue donations; legislative findings; protocol; development. The Legislature finds that the availability of donor organs and tissue can save the lives and restore the health and productivity of many Nebraskans. Every hospital in the state shall develop a protocol, appropriate to the hospital's capability, for identifying and referring potential donor organ and tissue availability in coordination with the Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act. The protocol shall require utmost care and sensitivity to the family's circumstances, views, and beliefs in all discussions regarding donation of organs or tissue. Hospitals shall be required to consult with existing organ and tissue agencies preparatory to establishing a staff training and education program in the protocol. This section and section 71-4816 are for the immediate preservation of the public health and welfare.

Source: Laws 1987, LB 74, § 1; Laws 2010, LB1036, § 37. Operative Date: January 1, 2011.

71-4815. Repealed. Laws 2010, LB 1036, § 42.

71-4816. Certificate of death; attestation required; statistical information. (1) The physician responsible for the completion and signing of the portion of the certificate of death entitled medical certificate of death or, if there is no such physician, the person responsible for signing the certificate of death shall attest on the death certificate whether organ or tissue donation was considered and whether consent was granted under the protocol of the hospital.

(2) The Department of Health and Human Services shall make available the number of organ and tissue donors in Nebraska for statistical purposes.

Source: Laws 1987, LB 74, § 3; Laws 1996, LB 1044, § 684; Laws 2007, LB296, § 600; Laws 2010, LB1036, § 38. Operative Date: January 1, 2011.

71-4817. Repealed. Laws 2010, LB 1036, § 42.

71-4818. Repealed. Laws 2010, LB 1036, § 42.

(c) BONE MARROW DONATIONS

71-4819. Department of Health and Human Services; education regarding bone marrow donors; powers and duties.

(1) The Department of Health and Human Services shall educate residents of the state about:

- (a) The need for bone marrow donors;
- (b) Patient populations benefiting from bone marrow donations;
- (c) How to acquire a free buccal swab kit from a bone marrow registry;
- (d) The procedures required to become registered as a potential bone marrow donor, including the procedures for determining tissue type; and
- (e) The medical procedures a donor must undergo to donate bone marrow and the attendant risks of the procedures.

(2) The department shall provide information and educational materials to the public regarding bone marrow donation. The department shall seek assistance from the national marrow donor program to establish a system to distribute materials, ensure that the materials are updated periodically, and fully disclose the risks involved in donating bone marrow. The department shall make special efforts to educate and recruit persons of racial and ethnic minorities to volunteer as potential bone marrow donors.

(3) The department may use the press, radio, and television and may place educational materials in appropriate health care facilities, blood banks, and state and local agencies. The department, in conjunction with the Director of Motor Vehicles, shall make educational materials available at all places where motor vehicle operators' licenses are issued or renewed.

Source: Laws 1992, LB 1099, § 1; Laws 1996, LB 1044, § 685; Laws 2007, LB296, § 601; Laws 2020, LB541, § 1.

71-4820. Employer; grant of leaves of absence; encouraged. An employer shall be encouraged to grant paid leaves of absence to an employee who seeks to undergo a medical procedure to donate bone marrow.

Source: Laws 1992, LB 1099, § 2.

71-4821. Physician; inquire of new patient; provide information.

Each physician may inquire of a new patient who is at least eighteen years of age and younger than forty-five years of age on the new patient's intake form as to whether the patient is registered with the bone marrow registry. If the patient states that the patient is not registered with the bone marrow registry, the physician may provide information developed and disseminated by the Department of Health and Human Services regarding the bone marrow registry to the patient.

Source: Laws 2020, LB541, § 2.

(d) DONOR REGISTRY OF NEBRASKA

71-4822. Donor Registry of Nebraska; establishment; duties; restriction on information.

(1) The federally designated organ procurement organization for Nebraska shall use the information received from the Department of Motor Vehicles under section 60-494 and the Game and Parks Commission under section 37-406.01 to establish and maintain the Donor Registry of Nebraska. A procurement organization located outside of Nebraska may obtain information from the Donor Registry of Nebraska when a Nebraska resident is listed as a donor on the registry and is not located in Nebraska immediately preceding or at the time of his or her death. The federally designated organ procurement organization for Nebraska may receive donor information from sources other than the Department of Motor Vehicles and shall pay all costs associated with creating and maintaining the Donor Registry of Nebraska.

(2) It is the intent of the Legislature that the Donor Registry of Nebraska facilitate organ and tissue donations and not inhibit such donations. A person does not need to be listed on the Donor Registry of Nebraska to be an organ and tissue donor.

(3) No person shall obtain information from the Donor Registry of Nebraska for the purpose of fundraising or other commercial use. Information obtained from the Donor Registry of Nebraska may only be used to facilitate the donation process at the time of the donor's death. General statistical information may be provided upon request to the federally designated organ procurement organization for Nebraska.

Source: Laws 2004, LB 559, § 7; Laws 2010, LB1036, § 39; Laws 2022, LB1082, § 3.

71-4823 Repealed. Laws 2009, LB 154, § 27.

(e) REVISED UNIFORM ANATOMICAL GIFT ACT

71-4824. Act, how cited. Sections 71-4824 to 71-4845 shall be known and may be cited as the Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act.

Source: Laws 2010, LB1036, § 1. Operative Date: January 1, 2011.

71-4825. Terms, defined. For purposes of the Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act:

(1) Adult means an individual who is at least eighteen years of age;

(2) Agent means an individual:

(A) Authorized to make health care decisions on the principal's behalf by a power of attorney for health care;

or

(B) Expressly authorized to make an anatomical gift on the principal's behalf by any other record signed by the principal;

(3) Anatomical gift means a donation of all or part of a human body to take effect after the donor's death for the purpose of transplantation, therapy, research, or education;

(4) Decedent means a deceased individual whose body or part is or may be the source of an anatomical gift. The term includes a stillborn infant and, subject to restrictions imposed by law other than the Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, a fetus. The term decedent does not include a blastocyst, embryo, or fetus that is the subject of an induced abortion;

(5) Disinterested witness means a witness other than the spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandchild, grandparent, or guardian of the individual who makes, amends, revokes, or refuses to make an anatomical gift, or another adult who exhibited special care and concern for the individual. The term does not include a person to which an anatomical gift could pass under section 71-4834;

- (6) Document of gift means a donor card or other record used to make an anatomical gift. The term includes a statement or symbol on a driver's license, identification card, or donor registry;
- (7) Donor means an individual whose body or part is the subject of an anatomical gift;
- (8) Donor registry means a data base that contains records of anatomical gifts and amendments to or revocations of anatomical gifts;
- (9) Driver's license means a license or permit issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles to operate a vehicle, whether or not conditions are attached to the license or permit;
- (10) Eye bank means a person that is licensed, accredited, or regulated under federal or state law to engage in the recovery, screening, testing, processing, storage, or distribution of human eyes or portions of human eyes;
- (11) Guardian means a person appointed by a court to make decisions regarding the support, care, education, health, or welfare of an individual. The term does not include a guardian ad litem;
- (12) Hospital means a facility licensed as a hospital under the law of any state or a facility operated as a hospital by the United States, a state, or a subdivision of a state;
- (13) Identification card means a state identification card issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles;
- (14) Know means to have actual knowledge;
- (15) Minor means an individual who is under eighteen years of age;
- (16) Organ procurement organization means a person designated by the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services as an organ procurement organization;
- (17) Parent means a parent whose parental rights have not been terminated;
- (18) Part means an organ, an eye, or tissue of a human being. The term does not include the whole body;
- (19) Person means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation, government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity;
- (20) Physician means an individual authorized to practice medicine or osteopathy under the law of any state;
- (21) Procurement organization means an eye bank, organ procurement organization, or tissue bank;
- (22) Prospective donor means an individual who is dead or near death and has been determined by a procurement organization to have a part that could be medically suitable for transplantation, therapy, research, or education. The term does not include an individual who has made a refusal;
- (23) Reasonably available means able to be contacted by a procurement organization without undue effort and willing and able to act in a timely manner consistent with existing medical criteria necessary for the making of an anatomical gift;
- (24) Recipient means an individual into whose body a decedent's part has been or is intended to be transplanted;
- (25) Record means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form;
- (26) Refusal means a record created under section 71-4830 that expressly states an intent to bar other persons from making an anatomical gift of an individual's body or part;
- (27) Sign means, with the present intent to authenticate or adopt a record:
- (A) To execute or adopt a tangible symbol; or
- (B) To attach to or logically associate with the record an electronic symbol, sound, or process;
- (28) State means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States;
- (29) Technician means an individual determined to be qualified to remove or process parts by an appropriate organization that is licensed, accredited, or regulated under federal or state law. The term includes an enucleator;
- (30) Tissue means a portion of the human body other than an organ or an eye. The term does not include blood unless the blood is donated for the purpose of research or education;
- (31) Tissue bank means a person that is licensed, accredited, or regulated under federal or state law to engage in the recovery, screening, testing, processing, storage, or distribution of tissue; and
- (32) Transplant hospital means a hospital that furnishes organ transplants and other medical and surgical specialty services required for the care of transplant patients.

Source: Laws 2010, LB1036, § 2. Operative Date: January 1, 2011.

71-4826. Applicability of act. The Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act applies to an anatomical gift or amendment to, revocation of, or refusal to make an anatomical gift, whenever made.

Source: Laws 2010, LB1036, § 3. Operative Date: January 1, 2011.

71-4827. Who may make anatomical gift before donor's death. Subject to section 71-4831, an anatomical gift of a donor's body or part may be made during the life of the donor for the purpose of transplantation, therapy, research, or education in the manner provided in section 71-4828 by:

- (1) The donor, if the donor is an adult or if the donor is a minor and is:
 - (A) Emancipated; or
 - (B) Authorized under state law to apply for a driver's license and the donor is at least sixteen years of age;
 - (2) An agent of the donor, unless the power of attorney for health care or other record prohibits the agent from making an anatomical gift;
 - (3) A parent of the donor, if the donor is an unemancipated minor; or
 - (4) The donor's guardian.
- Source: Laws 2010, LB1036, § 4. Operative Date: January 1, 2011.

71-4828. Manner of making anatomical gift before donor's death. (a) A donor may make an anatomical gift:

- (1) By authorizing a statement or symbol indicating that the donor has made an anatomical gift to be imprinted on the donor's driver's license or identification card;
- (2) In a will;
- (3) During a terminal illness or injury of the donor, by any form of communication addressed to at least two adults, at least one of whom is a disinterested witness; or
- (4) As provided in subsection (b) of this section.

(b) A donor or other person authorized to make an anatomical gift under section 71-4827 may make a gift by a donor card or other record signed by the donor or other person making the gift or by authorizing that a statement or symbol indicating that the donor has made an anatomical gift be included on a donor registry. If the donor or other person is physically unable to sign a record, the record may be signed by another individual at the direction of the donor or other person and must:

- (1) Be witnessed by at least two adults, at least one of whom is a disinterested witness, who have signed at the request of the donor or the other person; and
- (2) State that it has been signed and witnessed as provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(c) Revocation, suspension, expiration, or cancellation of a driver's license or identification card upon which an anatomical gift is indicated does not invalidate the gift.

(d) An anatomical gift made by will takes effect upon the donor's death whether or not the will is probated. Invalidation of the will after the donor's death does not invalidate the gift.

Source: Laws 2010, LB1036, § 5. Operative Date: January 1, 2011.

71-4829. Amending or revoking anatomical gift before donor's death. (a) Subject to section 71-4831, a donor or other person authorized to make an anatomical gift under section 71-4827 may amend or revoke an anatomical gift by:

- (1) A record signed by:
 - (A) The donor;
 - (B) The other person; or
- (C) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, another individual acting at the direction of the donor or the other person if the donor or other person is physically unable to sign; or

(2) A later-executed document of gift that amends or revokes a previous anatomical gift or portion of an anatomical gift, either expressly or by inconsistency.

(b) A record signed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(C) of this section must:

- (1) Be witnessed by at least two adults, at least one of whom is a disinterested witness, who have signed at the request of the donor or the other person; and
- (2) State that it has been signed and witnessed as provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection.

(c) Subject to section 71-4831, a donor or other person authorized to make an anatomical gift under section 71-4827 may revoke an anatomical gift by the destruction or cancellation of the document of gift, or the portion of the document of gift used to make the gift, with the intent to revoke the gift.

(d) A donor may amend or revoke an anatomical gift that was not made in a will by any form of communication during a terminal illness or injury addressed to at least two adults, at least one of whom is a disinterested witness.

(e) A donor who makes an anatomical gift in a will may amend or revoke the gift in the manner provided for amendment or revocation of wills or as provided in subsection (a) of this section.

Source: Laws 2010, LB1036, § 6. Operative Date: January 1, 2011.

71-4830. Refusal to make anatomical gift; effect of refusal. (a) An individual may refuse to make an anatomical gift of the individual's body or part by:

- (1) A record signed by:
 - (A) The individual; or

- (B) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, another individual acting at the direction of the individual if the individual is physically unable to sign;
 - (2) The individual's will, whether or not the will is admitted to probate or invalidated after the individual's death;
- or
- (3) Any form of communication made by the individual during the individual's terminal illness or injury addressed to at least two adults, at least one of whom is a disinterested witness.
- (b) A record signed pursuant to subdivision (a)(1)(B) of this section must:
- (1) Be witnessed by at least two adults, at least one of whom is a disinterested witness, who have signed at the request of the individual; and
 - (2) State that it has been signed and witnessed as provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection.
- (c) An individual who has made a refusal may amend or revoke the refusal:
- (1) In the manner provided in subsection (a) of this section for making a refusal;
 - (2) By subsequently making an anatomical gift pursuant to section 71-4828 that is inconsistent with the refusal; or
 - (3) By destroying or canceling the record evidencing the refusal, or the portion of the record used to make the refusal, with the intent to revoke the refusal.
- (d) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (h) of section 71-4831, in the absence of an express, contrary indication by the individual set forth in the refusal, an individual's unrevoked refusal to make an anatomical gift of the individual's body or part bars all other persons from making an anatomical gift of the individual's body or part.
- Source: Laws 2010, LB1036, § 7. Operative Date: January 1, 2011.

71-4831. Preclusive effect of anatomical gift, amendment, or revocation. (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (g) of this section and subject to subsection (f) of this section, in the absence of an express, contrary indication by the donor, a person other than the donor is barred from making, amending, or revoking an anatomical gift of a donor's body or part if the donor made an anatomical gift of the donor's body or part under section 71-4828 or an amendment to an anatomical gift of the donor's body or part under section 71-4829.

(b) A donor's revocation of an anatomical gift of the donor's body or part under section 71-4829 is not a refusal and does not bar another person specified in section 71-4827 or 71-4832 from making an anatomical gift of the donor's body or part under section 71-4828 or 71-4833.

(c) If a person other than the donor has made an unrevoked anatomical gift of the donor's body or part under section 71-4828 or an amendment to an anatomical gift of the donor's body or part under section 71-4829, another person who is not the donor may not make, amend, or revoke the gift of the donor's body or part under section 71-4833.

(d) A revocation of an anatomical gift of a donor's body or part under section 71-4829 by a person other than the donor does not bar another person from making an anatomical gift of the body or part under section 71-4828 or 71-4833.

(e) In the absence of an express, contrary indication by the donor or other person authorized to make an anatomical gift under section 71-4827, an anatomical gift of a part is neither a refusal to give another part nor a limitation on the making of an anatomical gift of another part at a later time by the donor or another person.

(f) In the absence of an express, contrary indication by the donor or other person authorized to make an anatomical gift under section 71-4827, an anatomical gift of a part for one or more of the purposes set forth in section 71-4827 is not a limitation on the making of an anatomical gift of the part for any of the other purposes by the donor or any other person under section 71-4828 or 71-4833.

(g) If a donor who is an unemancipated minor dies, a parent of the donor who is reasonably available may revoke or amend an anatomical gift of the donor's body or part.

(h) If an unemancipated minor who signed a refusal dies, a parent of the minor who is reasonably available may revoke the minor's refusal.

Source: Laws 2010, LB1036, § 8. Operative Date: January 1, 2011.

71-4832. Who may make anatomical gift of decedent's body or part. (a) Subject to subsections (b) and (c) of this section and unless barred by section 71-4830 or 71-4831, an anatomical gift of a decedent's body or part for purpose of transplantation, therapy, research, or education may be made by any member of the following classes of persons who is reasonably available, in the order of priority listed:

- (1) An agent of the decedent at the time of death who could have made an anatomical gift under subdivision (2) of section 71-4827 immediately before the decedent's death;
- (2) The spouse of the decedent;
- (3) Adult children of the decedent;
- (4) Parents of the decedent;

- (5) Adult siblings of the decedent;
- (6) Adult grandchildren of the decedent;
- (7) Grandparents of the decedent;
- (8) The persons who were acting as the guardians of the person of the decedent at the time of death;
- (9) An adult who exhibited special care and concern for the decedent other than any medical personnel caring for the decedent at the time of or immediately leading up to the decedent's death; and
- (10) Any other person having the authority to dispose of the decedent's body.

(b) If there is more than one member of a class listed in subdivision (a)(1), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), or (8) of this section entitled to make an anatomical gift, an anatomical gift may be made by a member of the class unless that member or a person to which the gift may pass under section 71-4834 knows of an objection by another member of the class. If an objection is known, the gift may be made only by a majority of the members of the class who are reasonably available.

(c) A person may not make an anatomical gift if, at the time of the decedent's death, a person in a prior class under subsection (a) of this section is reasonably available to make or to object to the making of an anatomical gift.

Source: Laws 2010, LB1036, § 9. Operative Date: January 1, 2011.

71-4833. Manner of making, amending, or revoking anatomical gift of decedent's body or part. (a) A person authorized to make an anatomical gift under section 71-4832 may make an anatomical gift by a document of gift signed by the person making the gift or by that person's oral communication that is electronically recorded or is contemporaneously reduced to a record and signed by the individual receiving the oral communication.

(b) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, an anatomical gift by a person authorized under section 71-4832 may be amended or revoked orally or in a record by any member of a prior class who is reasonably available. If more than one member of the prior class is reasonably available, the gift made by a person authorized under section 71-4832 may be:

- (1) Amended only if a majority of the reasonably available members agree to the amending of the gift; or
- (2) Revoked only if a majority of the reasonably available members agree to the revoking of the gift or if they are equally divided as to whether to revoke the gift.

(c) A revocation under subsection (b) of this section is effective only if, before an incision has been made to remove a part from the donor's body or before invasive procedures have begun to prepare the recipient, the procurement organization, transplant hospital, or physician or technician knows of the revocation.

Source: Laws 2010, LB1036, § 10. Operative Date: January 1, 2011.

71-4834. Persons that may receive anatomical gift; purpose of anatomical gift. (a) An anatomical gift may be made to the following persons named in the document of gift:

(1) A hospital; the State Anatomical Board; an accredited medical school, dental school, college, or university; an organ procurement organization; or any other appropriate person, for research or education;

(2) Subject to subsection (b) of this section, an individual designated by the person making the anatomical gift if the individual is the recipient of the part; or

(3) An eye bank or tissue bank.

(b) If an anatomical gift to an individual under subdivision (a)(2) of this section cannot be transplanted into the individual, the part passes in accordance with subsection (g) of this section in the absence of an express, contrary indication by the person making the anatomical gift.

(c) If an anatomical gift of one or more specific parts or of all parts is made in a document of gift that does not name a person described in subsection (a) of this section but identifies the purpose for which an anatomical gift may be used, the following rules apply:

(1) If the part is an eye and the gift is for the purpose of transplantation or therapy, the gift passes to the appropriate eye bank;

(2) If the part is tissue and the gift is for the purpose of transplantation or therapy, the gift passes to the appropriate tissue bank;

(3) If the part is an organ and the gift is for the purpose of transplantation or therapy, the gift passes to the appropriate organ procurement organization as custodian of the organ;

(4) If the part is an organ, an eye, or tissue and the gift is for the purpose of research or education, the gift passes to the appropriate procurement organization; and

(5) If the gift is any part other than an organ, an eye, or tissue, or the gift is all parts, and the gift is for the purpose of research or education, the gift passes to the State Anatomical Board.

(d) For the purpose of subsection (c) of this section, if there is more than one purpose of an anatomical gift set forth in the document of gift but the purposes are not set forth in any priority, the gift must be used for transplantation or therapy, if suitable. If the gift cannot be used for transplantation or therapy, the gift may be used for research or education.

(e) If an anatomical gift of one or more specific parts is made in a document of gift that does not name a person described in subsection (a) of this section and does not identify the purpose of the gift, the gift may be used only for transplantation or therapy, and the gift passes in accordance with subsection (g) of this section.

(f) If a document of gift specifies only a general intent to make an anatomical gift by words such as donor, organ donor, or body donor, or by a symbol or statement of similar import, the gift may be used only for transplantation or therapy, and the gift passes in accordance with subsection (g) of this section.

(g) For purposes of subsections (b), (e), and (f) of this section the following rules apply:

(1) If the part is an eye, the gift passes to the appropriate eye bank;

(2) If the part is tissue, the gift passes to the appropriate tissue bank; and

(3) If the part is an organ, the gift passes to the appropriate organ procurement organization as custodian of the organ.

(h) An anatomical gift of an organ for transplantation or therapy, other than an anatomical gift under subdivision (a)(2) of this section, passes to the organ procurement organization as custodian of the organ.

(i) If an anatomical gift does not pass pursuant to subsections (a) through (h) of this section or the decedent's body or part is not used for transplantation, therapy, research, or education, custody of the body or part passes to the person under obligation to dispose of the body or part.

(j) A person may not accept an anatomical gift if the person knows that the gift was not effectively made under section 71-4828 or 71-4833 or if the person knows that the decedent made a refusal under section 71-4830 that was not revoked. For purposes of this subsection, if a person knows that an anatomical gift was made on a document of gift, the person is deemed to know of any amendment or revocation of the gift or any refusal to make an anatomical gift on the same document of gift.

(k) Except as otherwise provided in subdivision (a)(2) of this section, nothing in the Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act affects the allocation of organs for transplantation or therapy.

Source: Laws 2010, LB1036, § 11. Operative Date: January 1, 2011.

71-4835. Search and notification. (a) The following persons shall make a reasonable search of an individual who the person reasonably believes is dead or near death for a document of gift or other information identifying the individual as a donor or as an individual who made a refusal:

(1) A law enforcement officer, firefighter, paramedic, or other emergency rescuer finding the individual; and

(2) If no other source of the information is immediately available, a hospital, as soon as practical after the individual's arrival at the hospital.

(b) If a document of gift or a refusal to make an anatomical gift is located by the search required by subdivision (a)(1) of this section and the individual or deceased individual to whom it relates is taken to a hospital, the person responsible for conducting the search shall send the document of gift or refusal to the hospital.

(c) A person is not subject to criminal or civil liability for failing to discharge the duties imposed by this section but may be subject to administrative sanctions.

Source: Laws 2010, LB1036, § 12. Operative Date: January 1, 2011.

71-4836. Delivery of document of gift not required; right to examine. (a) A document of gift need not be delivered during the donor's lifetime to be effective.

(b) Upon or after an individual's death, a person in possession of a document of gift or a refusal to make an anatomical gift with respect to the individual shall allow examination and copying of the document of gift or refusal by a person authorized to make or object to the making of an anatomical gift with respect to the individual or by a person to which the gift could pass under section 71-4834.

Source: Laws 2010, LB1036, § 13. Operative Date: January 1, 2011.

71-4837. Rights and duties of procurement organization and others. (a) When a hospital refers an individual at or near death to a procurement organization, the organization shall make a reasonable search of the records of the Donor Registry of Nebraska established pursuant to section 71-4822 and any donor registry that it knows exists for the geographical area in which the individual resides to ascertain whether the individual has made an anatomical gift.

(b) A procurement organization must be allowed reasonable access to information in the records of the Donor Registry of Nebraska or any donor registry described in subsection (a) of this section to ascertain whether an individual at or near death is a donor.

(c) When a hospital refers an individual at or near death to a procurement organization, the organization may conduct any reasonable examination necessary to determine the medical suitability of a part that is or could be the subject of an anatomical gift for transplantation, therapy, research, or education from a donor or a prospective donor. During the examination period, measures necessary to ensure the medical suitability of the part may not be withdrawn unless the hospital or procurement organization knows that the individual expressed a contrary intent. Measures necessary to ensure the medical suitability of the part from a prospective donor may not be administered if it is determined that the administration of those measures would not provide the prospective donor with appropriate end-of-life care or it can be anticipated by reasonable medical judgment that such measures would cause the prospective donor's death other than by the prospective donor's underlying pathology.

(d) Unless prohibited by law other than the Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, at any time after a donor's death, the person to which a part passes under section 71-4834 may conduct any reasonable examination necessary to determine the medical suitability of the body or part for its intended purpose.

(e) Unless prohibited by law other than the act, an examination under subsection (c) or (d) of this section may include an examination of all medical and dental records of the donor or prospective donor.

(f) Upon the death of a minor who was a donor or had signed a refusal, unless a procurement organization knows the minor is emancipated, the procurement organization shall conduct a reasonable search for the parents of the minor and provide the parents with an opportunity to revoke or amend the anatomical gift or revoke the refusal.

(g) Upon referral by a hospital under subsection (a) of this section, a procurement organization shall make a reasonable search for any person listed in section 71-4832 having priority to make or object to the making of an anatomical gift on behalf of a prospective donor. If a procurement organization receives information that an anatomical gift to any other person was made, amended, or revoked, it shall promptly advise the other person of all relevant information.

(h) Subject to subsection (i) of section 71-4834 and sections 23-1825 to 23-1832, the rights of the person to which a part passes under section 71-4834 are superior to the rights of all others with respect to the part. The person may accept or reject an anatomical gift in whole or in part. Subject to the terms of the document of gift and the act, a person that accepts an anatomical gift of an entire body may allow embalming, burial or cremation, and use of remains in a funeral service. If the gift is of a part, the person to which the part passes under section 71-4834, upon the death of the donor and before embalming, burial, or cremation, shall cause the part to be removed without unnecessary mutilation.

(i) Neither the physician who attends the decedent at death nor the physician who determines the time of the decedent's death may participate in the procedures for removing or transplanting a part from the decedent.

(j) A physician or technician may remove a donated part from the body of a donor that the physician or technician is qualified to remove.

Source: Laws 2010, LB1036, § 14. Operative Date: January 1, 2011.

71-4838. Coordination of procurement and use. Each hospital in this state shall enter into agreements or affiliations with procurement organizations for coordination of procurement and use of anatomical gifts.

Source: Laws 2010, LB1036, § 15. Operative Date: January 1, 2011.

71-4839. Sale or purchase of parts prohibited; penalty. (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b) of this section, a person that for valuable consideration, knowingly purchases or sells a part for transplantation, therapy, research, or education if removal of a part from an individual is intended to occur after the individual's death commits a Class IIIA felony.

(b) A person may charge a reasonable amount for the removal, processing, preservation, quality control, storage, transportation, implantation, or disposal of a part.

Source: Laws 2010, LB1036, § 16. Operative Date: January 1, 2011.

71-4840. Other prohibited acts; penalty. A person that, in order to obtain a financial gain, intentionally falsifies, forges, conceals, defaces, or obliterates a document of gift, an amendment or revocation of a document of gift, or a refusal commits a Class IIIA felony.

Source: Laws 2010, LB1036, § 17. Operative Date: January 1, 2011.

71-4841. Immunity. (a) A person that acts with reasonable care in accordance with the Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act or with the applicable anatomical gift law of another state, or attempts in good faith to do so, is not liable for the act in a civil action, criminal prosecution, or administrative proceeding.

(b) Neither the person making an anatomical gift nor the donor's estate is liable for any injury or damage that results from the making or use of the gift.

(c) In determining whether an anatomical gift has been made, amended, or revoked under the Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, a person may rely upon representations of an individual listed in subdivision (a)(2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), or (9) of section 71-4832 relating to the individual's relationship to the donor or prospective donor unless the person knows that the representation is untrue.

Source: Laws 2010, LB1036, § 18. Operative Date: January 1, 2011.

71-4842. Law governing validity; choice of law as to execution of document of gift; presumption of validity. (a) A document of gift is valid if executed in accordance with:

- (1) The Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act;
- (2) The laws of the state or country where it was executed; or
- (3) The laws of the state or country where the person making the anatomical gift was domiciled, has a place of residence, or was a national at the time the document of gift was executed.

(b) If a document of gift is valid under this section, the law of this state governs the interpretation of the document of gift.

(c) A person may presume that a document of gift or amendment of an anatomical gift is valid unless that person knows that it was not validly executed or was revoked.

(d) The age restrictions of the Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act do not nullify any designation of gift made on a driver's license or state identification card prior to January 1, 2011, by a person younger than sixteen years of age which was valid when made. Such person shall be considered a donor under the act, and if such a donor who is an unemancipated minor dies, a parent of the donor who is reasonably available may revoke or amend an anatomical gift of the donor's body or part.

Source: Laws 2010, LB1036, § 19. Operative Date: January 1, 2011.

71-4843. Effect of anatomical gift on advance health care directive.

(a) For purposes of this section:

(1) Advance health care directive means a power of attorney for health care or a record signed or authorized by a prospective donor containing the prospective donor's direction concerning a health care decision for the prospective donor;

(2) Declaration means a record signed by a prospective donor specifying the circumstances under which life-sustaining treatment may be withheld or withdrawn from the prospective donor; and

(3) Health care decision means any decision regarding the health care of the prospective donor.

(b) If a prospective donor has a declaration or advance health care directive and the terms of the declaration or directive and the express or implied terms of a potential anatomical gift are in conflict with regard to the administration of measures necessary to ensure the medical suitability of a part for transplantation or therapy, the prospective donor's attending physician and prospective donor shall confer to resolve the conflict. If the prospective donor is incapable of resolving the conflict, an agent acting under the prospective donor's declaration or directive, or, if none or the agent is not reasonably available, a surrogate acting under the Health Care Surrogacy Act or another person authorized by law other than the Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act to make health care decisions on behalf of the prospective donor, shall act for the donor to resolve the conflict. The conflict must be resolved as expeditiously as possible. Information relevant to the resolution of the conflict may be obtained from the appropriate procurement organization and any other person authorized to make an anatomical gift for the prospective donor under section 71-4832. Before resolution of the conflict, measures necessary to ensure the medical suitability of the part from a prospective donor may not be administered if it is determined that the administration of those measures would not provide the prospective donor with appropriate end-of-life care or it can be anticipated by reasonable medical judgment that such measures would cause the prospective donor's death other than by the prospective donor's underlying pathology. If the conflict is not resolved expeditiously, the direction of the declaration or advanced directive controls.

Source: Laws 2010, LB1036, § 20; Laws 2018, LB104, § 22.

Cross References

- **Health Care Surrogacy Act**, see section 30-601.

71-4844. Uniformity of application and construction. In applying and construing the Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact this uniform act.

Source: Laws 2010, LB1036, § 21. Operative Date: January 1, 2011.

71-4845. Relation to Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act. The Revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act modifies, limits, and supersedes the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act, 15 U.S.C. 7001 et seq., but does not modify, limit, or supersede section 101(a) of that act, 15 U.S.C. 7001, or authorize electronic delivery of any of the notices described in section 103(b) of that act, 15 U.S.C. 7003(b).

Source: Laws 2010, LB1036, § 22. Operative Date: January 1, 2011.