Contact us

Alzheimer's Disease Research Center
Mayo Clinic Northwest Medical Complex
Building B
3033 41st St NW
Rochester, MN 55901

- (507) 284-1324

Mayo Clinic Office of Decedent Affairs (ODA)
24- hour service

- (507) 293-7800

Helpful information to have when contacting the ODA:

Participant name

Mayo Clinic #

Funeral home contact information

Next of kin

Participant Checklist

- ☐ Signed Advance Directive for autopsy (AD)
- ☐ Copy of AD given to funeral home
- ☐ Notify ADRC team of end-of-life plans
- ☐ Notify next of kin that they should contact the Office of Decedent Affairs (ODA)
- ☐ Give ODA contact info to next of kin

The ADRC team can provide additional copies of the AD upon request.

Notes

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Alzheimer's Research Brain Donation Program

Research into Alzheimer's disease and other dementias has advanced significantly over recent years. New treatments help slow progression of Alzheimer's and scientists have discovered new ways of diagnosing Alzheimer's disease. Novel treatments are also being studied in persons with Lewy body disease and frontotemporal lobar degeneration. Analyses of brain tissue have been crucial for these advances in treatment, and for biomarker development to improve early and accurate diagnosis. This could not have happened without volunteers in research studies donating their brains, underscoring why brain donation is one of the greatest gifts to scientific advancement.

Brad Boeve, MD
Director of the Mayo Clinic Alzheimer's Disease Research Center

Brain Donation Process

- An ADRC Team member will have a conversation with you about donating your brain.
- Complete an Advance Directive for Autopsy form.
  - If you live farther than 2 hours from Rochester, please select "limited autopsy."
- Once end of life planning has been finalized, please contact your study coordinator at the Alzheimer's Disease Research Center (ADRC) to provide updates.
- While advance planning is preferred, especially for those who live outside Rochester, we are willing to help in any way possible and can assist with short notice requests.

At the Time of Passing

The Office of Decedent Affairs can be reached 24 hours per day, 7 days per week at (507) 293-7800.

They will assist with the donation process.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is an advance directive for autopsy?

The Advance Directive for Autopsy is a legal document that outlines a person's end of life wishes. An ADRC Team Member will review the ADRC Advance Directive for autopsy with you during an onsite study visit.

What is the difference between a complete and limited autopsy? Which box do I check?

Complete autopsies examine all organs and tissues to determine cause of death.

A limited autopsy focuses solely on the brain and provides a definitive dementia diagnosis.

Complete autopsies are reserved for donations within 200 miles of Rochester. Please discuss with an ADRC team member which option is right for you.

Are there costs associated with an autopsy?

The Mayo Clinic Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Research Program covers costs related to the autopsy. Funeral or burial-related expenses are the responsibility of the next of kin.

I am an organ donor on my driver's license, can I do both?

Yes, you can do both. Please reach out to an ADRC team member for specific details.

Will I be able to have an open casket?

Yes, care is taken to ensure there is no evidence of the autopsy and autopsies will not delay funeral plans.

How will my family learn the results?

The final autopsy report will be sent to the legal next of kin approximately 6 months after donation.