



Institute for Plastination

Body Donation for Plastination

Donor's Consent

The procedures for donating your body for plastination after your death are as follows:

1. Read the information brochure "Body Donation for Plastination" carefully.
2. Complete this form (consisting of the Donor's Consent "Body Donation for Plastination," the "Additional Opinions on Donation for Plastination," and the "Personal Statement") **in duplicate** and **sign in all indicated places (X)**. Return both copies of the form to us, including the signed Authorization for Transportation, and any medical records you may wish to submit to us. If your relatives do not agree with your body donation for plastination, you should have your signatures on both of the completed copies of your consent form "signed by a witness or notarised".
3. We will countersign one of the forms and return it to you as confirmation. Please keep this form with your personal documents or give it to a relative or your doctor for safekeeping. You will also receive a body donor identification card that you should carry along with your personal identification.

This donor's consent does not constitute a contract but a declaration of intent, which can be revoked at any time. No reasons are required to be stated.

Institute for Plastination

Office for Body Donation

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bodydonation@plastination.com or koerperspende@plastination.com

Donor Personal Information

Family name	First (given) name		
Maiden name	Marital status	Height (cm)	Weight (kg)
Date of birth	Place of birth		
Street address	Postal Code	City	
State	E-mail (private)		
Phone	Mobile		

—Please notify the IfP of any future changes of address—

Donor's Consent: "Body Donation for Plastination"

I hereby request that, upon my death, my body be donated for plastination and transferred without delay to the Institute for Plastination (IfP) or the PLASTINARIUM of Gubener Plastinate GmbH in Guben, Germany, with which the IfP closely cooperates. I do not wish to be buried, and request that no post-mortem examination be performed unless required by law. I understand that if an autopsy is required, my body may not be suitable for donation for plastination.

My body donation is intended for teaching and research. My consent includes the preparation of permanently preserved teaching specimens from my donated body. It also extends to photographs, videos and any other images or depictions of such specimens, in any medium or format, in perpetuity. If I expressly authorise this in the supplementary provisions of this document, specimens created from my body may also be used for anatomical education of the public through scientific or educational exhibitions.

I have informed my next of kin of my decision to donate my body for plastination. Where my next of kin have not been informed, this consent has been notarised or confirmed by the signature of at least one independent witness.

I am aware that the Institute for Plastination (IfP) and Gubener Plastinate GmbH are privately operated, for-profit organisations managed under the scientific direction of Dr Gunther von Hagens, the inventor of plastination. Both institutions undertake to supply human specimens exclusively to "qualified users". Qualified users are organisations or individuals who can demonstrate that the specimens will be used solely for research, teaching, or the practice of medicine or another healthcare profession. Examples include universities, hospitals, schools, museums, physicians, and academic faculty, staff, lecturers, and researchers involved in scientific projects throughout the world.

As the production of plastinated specimens requires substantial expertise, labour, facilities and resources, I consent to the transfer of plastinated specimens derived from my donated body to qualified users in return for a fee for preservation, preparation, plastination and related activities. The income supports the provision of these activities as well as the operation, maintenance and further development of the organisations. It may also be used, among other things, for the continued research and development of the plastination technology, the training of qualified specialists, and the establishment and operation of museums devoted to plastination. The accompanying invoice will state that the specimen is available only because it was donated for plastination; that the fee is charged for the services and activities associated with its preservation, preparation and plastination and does not constitute payment for the human body itself; and will acknowledge the generosity and express gratitude to the donor.

I may withdraw my body donation at any time and without giving a reason.
The IfP also reserves the right to decline acceptance of my donation.

Place, date

X

Signature of body donor including first and last name

Place, date

Dr. Angelina Whalley, Director of the Institut für Plastination

Additional Opinions on Donation for Plastination

The following individual opinions, statements, and directions accompany the Donor's Consent on "Body Donation for Plastination."

These forms provide you with an opportunity to advise us on the specific use(s) of your body and the plastinate(s) developed from it. It is important to us to know which uses you, the body donor, agree to and to which you object. If you have any additional wishes or comments not covered here, please feel free to write them in.

1. Do you have a relative or person you trust whom we can contact after your death if necessary? If yes, please give his or her contact details below:

Family name _____ First (given) name _____

Phone _____ E-mail (private) _____

Street, city, and postal code _____

Nature of relationship (e.g., daughter, brother) _____

2. I am an organ donor. ☐ **yes** ☐ **no**
(Organ donation for transplants is compatible with body donation for plastination. It takes priority over plastination, but the body can still be used for plastination once organs have been removed. If you wish to become an organ donor, please contact your local organ donation registry.)

3. I consent to having tissues of my body, such as ligaments, bone tissue, or the cornea, removed and being used for therapeutic and transplantation purposes. ☐ **yes** ☐ **no**

(Tissue donation for transplant is fundamentally different from organ donation. Unlike in organ donation, no completely functional organs are removed during tissue donation. Tissues can still be harvested long after brain function and cardiovascular function have ceased. Tissue donation does not compromise the body's suitability for the development of plastinated specimens.)

4. Knowledge of any existing conditions may significantly help our work and may also improve the type of dissection and the results of preservation. For educational and research purposes, it may also be useful to access the medical records of the body donor.

I agree to have my medical records reviewed after my death. ☐ **yes** ☐ **no**

5. I agree that my plastinated body can be used for the medical enlightenment of laypeople and, to this end, exhibited in public (e.g. in a museum or in the BODY WORLDS exhibitions). ☐ **yes** ☐ **no**

6. The body donor's own identity is altered during the anatomical preparation. The process gives both the face and the body a new appearance on the basis of their internal anatomy. Therefore, a plastinated specimen could not be recognized from its external features—that would require complex reconstruction techniques.

I request that my donated body and the permanent specimens prepared from it remain anonymous. (Checking 'Yes' means that, e.g., in a museum exhibit, the donor's name, age, or origin may not be cited.) ☐ **yes** ☐ **no**

7. I agree for my body to be used for any purpose, provided it serves medical research or training, or offer medical treatment training for doctors and medical institutions. This question becomes important in the event that decomposition of the body is too advanced for plastination to be possible, but it can still be used as a skeleton, wet specimen, or vessel configuration. It is also useful for specialist doctors and medical students to be able to practice on dead bodies during training before they operate on living ones. ☐ **yes** ☐ **no**

8. Plastinated specimens, especially whole-body plastinates, are occasionally interpreted as anatomical works of art. Hence, I agree that my body may be transformed into an anatomical work of art. ☐ **yes** ☐ **no**

9. People often ask us, with a degree of admiration and respect, what prompts people to donate their bodies for plastination. We would therefore like to know your own personal reasons and motivations.

My motivations (please check all that apply):

- ☐ I would like to donate my body to serve a good cause.
- ☐ I am fascinated by the thought of being preserved forever for posterity.
- ☐ I find the thought of conventional funerals, i.e. being cremated or buried, unpleasant.
- ☐ As there is no need for a burial service with plastination, my relatives will not have to worry about tending my grave.
- ☐ I have no relatives to tend my grave once I'm gone.
- ☐ I wish to save on the costs of a funeral.
- ☐ I am excited about the potential of plastination.
- ☐ I am fascinated by the public exhibitions.

Other comments, questions, or suggestions:

Feel free to use a separate sheet if the space provided does not suffice.

I agree to the publication of my comment

- ☐ **yes**, but only anonymously ☐ **yes**, including my name ☐ **no**

10. I would be willing to be available for an interview (telephone, newspaper, radio, TV) if needed. ☐ **yes** ☐ **no**

**I hereby confirm my
Additional Opinions on Donation for Plastination as stated on this form.**

	<i>X</i>	
Place, date		Signature of body donor including first and last name

I understand that the IfP cannot guarantee to fulfill my personal requests (special poses etc.) for several reasons but will try to accommodate my individual wishes.

I understand that I may revoke

- a) my Donors Consent: “Body Donation for Plastination”, as well as**
- b) the Additional Opinions on Donation for Plastination**

**individually or collectively, at any time, and without giving any reasons,
by notifying the Institut für Plastination of my decision to do so.**

	<i>X</i>	
Place, date		Signature of body donor including first and last name

I understand and hereby confirm that my successor trustee (or executor of my will) is aware that, if I pass away outside Germany, my successor trustee is responsible for arranging and paying for the transport of my body to the IfP’s laboratory.

	<i>X</i>	
Place, date		Signature of body donor including first and last name

I hereby agree that my personal data are available to the Institut für Plastination (IFP) and Gubener Plastinate GmbH and are stored on electronic media.

	<i>X</i>	
Place, date		Signature of body donor including first and last name

Personal Statement

Please answer the questions below and sign this statement.

1. We are committed to providing body donors with information. We recommend that you read the information brochure, "Body Donation for Plastination" and the accompanying information sheet. Have you been provided with a copy of the brochure and the information sheet, and did you use these to learn about the process and purpose of plastination as well as about potential uses of the resulting plastinates?

☐ **Yes**, I have received and read the information materials named above.

☐ **Yes**, I have received the information materials named above, but I have not read them.

If you check yes here, please state why you haven't read through the materials:

☐ I learned about the process and purpose of plastination as well as potential uses of the resulting plastinates via other means (e.g., by visiting an exhibition, studying the Institut für Plastination's websites).

☐ Different reason (please explain):

☐ **No**, I did not receive the information materials named above, but I learned about the process and purpose of plastination as well as potential uses of the resulting plastinates via other means (e.g., by visiting an exhibition, studying the Institut für Plastination's website).

2. Did anyone assist you in completing the "Donor's Consent: Body Donation for Plastination" and the "Additional Opinions on Body Donation for Plastination"?

☐ **Yes**, someone assisted me in completing the forms.

☐ **No**, nobody assisted me in completing the forms.

If you answered 'Yes', please explain why and in which way you received assistance.

3. Has a legal guardian been appointed for you by a court?

☐ **Yes**, a guardian has been appointed for me.

☐ **No**, a guardian has not been appointed for me.

If you answered yes: Does the guardianship solely affect your financial affairs?

☐ **yes** ☐ **no**

I hereby confirm the above statements.

Place, date

x

Signature of body donor including first and last name