



## **Our Policy Concerning The State of Virginia's Anatomical Program**

As citizens in the Commonwealth of Virginia we applaud those individuals that selflessly consider donating their bodies to better the practice of medicine for all mankind.

The Virginia State Anatomical Program (VSAP) does not accept everyone who wishes to donate. The decision for acceptance by the program is not made until after death has occurred and based on the condition of potential donor. Certain restrictions such as height and weight, presence of contagious diseases, recent surgeries or medical procedures that have not healed, jaundice and severe edema are the primary causes for deferral (it is recommended that potential donors contact VSAP for further information and clarification). The decision for acceptance by VSAP is usually made within 24 hours.

Due to the process if the potential donor is not in the care of a medical institution with refrigerated holding capabilities, it is a requirement for the family to arrange to have their loved one transferred from the place of death to a licensed refrigerated holding facility (i.e. a funeral home). We at Morrissett Funeral & Cremation Service are happy to provide that service for your family.

If someone has signed up for donation prior to their death and they are an acceptable donor, then VSAP will pay \$100 toward the transfer of that individual after death has occurred. However if the family is making the initial decision to donate after a death has occurred then the program will not pay anything toward the transfer.

In order to facilitate a smooth process during a very emotional time, the staff at Morrissett Funeral & Cremation Service has implemented the following policy concerning Anatomical Donations:

- 1) Our staff will transfer the deceased into our care and hold them in refrigeration for up to 48 hours for a fee of \$375.00. If the VSAP agrees that they were pre-registered and is willing, we will deduct \$100.00 from that fee and be reimbursed by the state.
- 2) The family may also request for us to assist them with the completion and filing of the death certificate and securing certified copies. Customarily we can provide this service within 1 to 2 business days (dependent upon receipt of the necessary information and cooperation of the physician). VSAP will provide for this service however it can take 1 to 2 weeks. Our cost for providing this expedited service is \$150.00 (plus \$12.00 per certified copy that the family wants to purchase from the State).
- 3) We of course are more than willing to help the family plan a meaningful remembrance service and/or celebration of a life lived well. Our staff has a wealth of knowledge and ideas that make planning these events as simple or as elaborate as the family desires.

We hope that you help us share our policy with the Central Virginia community that we serve.

Respectfully Yours,

Laurence F. "Larry" Spiaggi, CFSP, CCO, CPC