

**§2954. Rights and duties of procurement organization and others**

**1. Reasonable search of registry and records.** When a hospital refers an individual at or near death to a procurement organization, the organization shall make a reasonable search of any donor registry and records of the Secretary of State that it knows exist for the geographical area in which the individual resides to ascertain whether the individual has made an anatomical gift.

[PL 2007, c. 601, §2 (NEW).]

**2. Reasonable access to records of donor registry.** A procurement organization must be allowed reasonable access to information in the records of the donor registry to ascertain whether an individual at or near death is a donor.

[PL 2007, c. 601, §2 (NEW).]

**3. Reasonable examination to determine medical suitability.** When a hospital refers an individual at or near death to a procurement organization, the organization may conduct any reasonable examination necessary to assess 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During the examination period, measures necessary to maintain the potential medical suitability of the part may not be withdrawn unless the hospital or procurement organization knows that the individual expressed a contrary intent.

[PL 2007, c. 601, §2 (NEW).]

**4. Reasonable examination after death.** Unless prohibited by law other than this chapter, at any time after a donor's death, the person to which a part passes under section 2951 may conduct any reasonable examination necessary to assess the medical suitability of the body or part for its intended purpose.

[PL 2007, c. 601, §2 (NEW).]

**5. Examination of medical records.** Unless prohibited by law other than this chapter, an examination under subsection 3 or 4 may include an examination of all medical records of the donor or prospective donor.

[PL 2007, c. 601, §2 (NEW).]

**6. Reasonable search for parents of minor.** If a donor, at the time of death, is under 18 years of age, a procurement organization shall conduct a reasonable search for the parents of the donor and, unless the procurement organization knows the donor is an emancipated minor, provide the parents with an opportunity to revoke or amend the anatomical gift or revoke a refusal.

[PL 2007, c. 601, §2 (NEW).]

**7. Reasonable search for person to make gift on behalf of donor.** A procurement organization shall make a reasonable search for any person listed in section 2949 having priority to make an anatomical gift on behalf of a prospective donor.

[PL 2007, c. 601, §2 (NEW).]

**8. Advise of relevant information.** 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.

[PL 2007, c. 601, §2 (NEW).]

**9. Superior rights.** Subject to section 2951, subsection 8 and section 2961, the rights of the person to which a part passes under section 2951 are superior to 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 this chapter, a person that accepts an anatomical gift of an entire body may allow embalming, cremation or natural organic reduction and use of remains in a funeral service. If the gift is of a part, the person to which the part passes under section 2951, upon the death of the donor and before embalming, cremation or natural organic reduction shall cause the part to be removed without

unnecessary mutilation. For purposes of this subsection, "natural organic reduction" has the same meaning as in section 2841-A, subsection 1.

[PL 2023, c. 676, §20 (AMD).]

**10. Removal or transplantation procedure.** 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.

[PL 2007, c. 601, §2 (NEW).]

**11. Physician or technician qualified.** A physician or technician may remove a donated part from the body of a donor that the physician or technician is qualified to remove.

[PL 2007, c. 601, §2 (NEW).]

#### SECTION HISTORY

PL 2007, c. 601, §2 (NEW). PL 2023, c. 676, §20 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

*All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Special Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature and is current through January 1, 2026. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.*

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.