

# Brain Donation Steps

## Step 1: In Advance

1. The donor and his or her family speak with a team member from the Brain Donation Program.
2. The donor and/or family complete consent forms for the brain donation.
3. The donor and/or family work with a team member to carry out a specific donation plan upon the donor's end of life.



## Step 2: At the Donor's End of Life

1. A family member calls the Brain Bank pager as soon as possible, preferably within 2 hours of the donor's end of life.
2. A team member returns the call and confirms the family's consent for brain donation.
3. A team member arranges for the donor's body to be sent to Stanford Hospital.

## Step 3: At Stanford Hospital

1. The pathologist removes the donor's brain through the back of the skull. The donor's appearance is fully preserved for an open casket viewing and funeral.
2. We (the Brain Donor Program) arrange for the donor to be sent to the mortuary selected by the family.
3. The pathologist examines the brain within several weeks of the donation. A full microscopic examination takes up to 2-3 months.



## Step 4: For the Family

1. The only way to diagnose Alzheimer's disease and other brain diseases is to examine the brain after death.
2. In approximately 3 months the autopsy findings will be shared with the family.
3. The family will be thanked for the precious gift.



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