

Your Local Hospitals have long-standing contracts (Memorandum of Understanding) with Lifesharing and San Diego Eye Bank to provide collaborative organ, tissue and eye donation services to families you serve.

In order to protect your funeral home/mortuary and the families you serve, there are important guidelines you should consider when working with an eye and tissue bank.

Criteria and Best Practices for Reputable Tissue Banks and Eye Banks

Registered with, and Regulated by, the FDA:	Request the organization's FDA registration, their last Inspection Report (483) and any warning letters that have been issued. Lifesharing and San Diego Eye Bank are both registered with, and regulated by, the FDA and have received no warning letters during their site inspections.
AATB Certified:	Certification by the American Association of Tissue Banks helps ensure that the Tissue Bank meets the highest standards. Lifesharing is AATB certified. Their re-accreditation occurred in 2020 and re-accreditation occurs every three years. Lifesharing has been AATB accredited for more than 30 years.
EBAA Certified:	Certification by the Eye Bank Association of America helps ensure that the Eye Bank meets the highest standards. San Diego Eye Bank has been EBAA accredited for more than 35 years.
CDPH Licensed Tissue Bank:	Request the organization's California Tissue License. Lifesharing and San Diego Eye Bank are both licensed tissue banks with the California Department of Public Health.
Medical Record Review:	In order to protect patient health information (PHI), the organization should gain authorization from the decedent's family to review the entire medical record of a decedent who has died in a hospital to determine medical suitability. Access of this PHI should be coordinated through a hospital's Health Information Department. The organization should always provide a signed donor consent/authorization form when requesting release of medical records. Lifesharing and San Diego Eye Bank provide the hospital with signed authorization and, in accordance with the MOU, properly access PHI and conduct this thorough medical record review to determine donor suitability.
Authorization (aka Consent):	<p>The organization uses a trained Family Services Specialist to gain authorization from donor families. Allowing a third party who is NOT a Trained Designated Requestor (Family Services Specialist) to gain authorization from a family can be detrimental. Lack of coordination with Lifesharing and San Diego Eye Bank (1-888-4A-DONOR) creates a risk of the family being approached for donation by multiple organizations. FDA, EBAA, CMS regulations and AATB standards require informed authorization. Lifesharing and San Diego Eye Bank are your local hospitals' contracted and Trained Designated Requestors. The donation authorization process should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • detailed information about the tissues and/or eyes recovered. • the impact of the tissue and/or eye donation on funeral services and appearance of the body. • families must be given the option of declining the use of their loved one's tissue for: cosmetic purposes, international use, use by "for profit" processors, and research and education.
Medical/Social History:	The organization obtains from the decedent's family an accurate AATB and EBAA approved Medical/Social history. An essential safety element of tissue and eye donor screening, and ultimately the determination of a deceased donor's eligibility, is the administration and completion of the Donor Risk Assessment Interview (DRAI). Lifesharing and San Diego Eye Bank use the DRAI. The DRAI is a national industry standard for AOPO, AATB and EBAA.
Declines Donation when appropriate:	To protect public health and safety, some referred tissue and eye donors are declined due to unacceptable medical/social findings. In order to provide safe, transplantable tissue, Lifesharing and San Diego Eye Bank use AATB, EBAA and FDA standards to determine donor suitability, and decline recovery when the decedent does not meet these standards. To protect public health and to provide safe transplantable tissue for our community, "Expanded Criteria" is never used. There are no AATB, EBAA nor FDA "Expanded Criteria" to determine donor suitability.

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Quality Review:	The organization will demonstrate that they provide the highest quality tissue by meeting multiple regulatory standards by performing rigorous quality chart audits by experienced and credentialed quality experts.
Education:	The organization provides donation education. Lifesharing and San Diego Eye Bank have a contract with all hospitals in San Diego and Imperial counties to provide donation recovery services and professional education. They also provide ongoing donation awareness education to the local community.
Tissue Recovery Suite:	The organization must recover tissues in a dedicated, aseptic Tissue Recovery Suite that ensures an environment that reduces potential disease transmission. Lifesharing specially trained technicians recover tissues in a dedicated aseptic Tissue Recovery Suite. Lifesharing does not recover tissues in an environment that is potentially hazardous to the recipient, such as funeral homes, mortuaries and morgues. Be cautious of organizations offering compensation for use of your facilities for this purpose.
Ocular Tissue Recovery:	Eye and tissue recovery must be done aseptically by specially trained technicians. The ocular tissue can be recovered at any facility as long as it is recovered aseptically.
Ocular & Tissue Recovery Standards:	The organization follows national standards established by the AATB and EBAA to ensure the safe recovery of tissues to reduce contamination and potential disease transmission to recipients of the donor tissue. Lifesharing is AATB Certified and San Diego Eye Bank is EBAA Accredited, and rigorously follow the accreditation standards.
Disposition of Tissue:	The organization provides the hospital, when needed, with detailed reports regarding disposition of donors and tissues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exact tissues recovered, and if they are used for transplant or research • Tissue Processors that the tissue is sent to • Discarded tissue: where it is discarded • Lifesharing provides outcome information to hospitals, funeral homes and families • All ocular tissue is tracked for usage and final distribution
Research Ocular & Tissue:	San Diego Eye Bank and Lifesharing work with approved research professionals. They use a Trained Designated Requestor (Family Services Specialist) and must gain authorization for research from a decedent's family. The Eye and Tissue Bank should clarify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses of ocular tissue. • tissues or whole limbs used. • which research entities and how are they approved. • types of research, i.e. cellular, organ, education, medical devices, medical surgical techniques and training.
Transportation of Ocular & Tissue:	Ocular Tissue must be packaged on ice and shipped in an approved shipping container. The organization must package the ocular tissue aseptically and immediately after recovery. Tissue must also be packaged on ice and shipped immediately. The Ocular/Tissue Bank must be able to provide EBAA/AATB certified packaging procedures and validated (FDA standard) procedures for shipping. Lifesharing and San Diego Eye Bank provide these services and uphold these industry standards.
No Cost to Families for Donation	Families must never be assessed extra charges related to the donation process. Tissue and Eye Banks must have policies in place to address any extra cost incurred by the Funeral Home due to donation.
No Compensation for Donation	Federal regulations prohibit the family from receiving compensation for donation.



LIFESHARING™

7436 Mission Valley Rd.
San Diego, CA 92108
619.543.7255

*If you ever have any questions or concerns,
please call the*

**24-hour Donor Referral Line at
1-888-4A-DONOR**

Ask for the Administrator On-Call or Supervisor.



3870 Murphy Canyon Rd. #250
San Diego, CA 92123
858.694.0400

LIFESHARING HOSPITAL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Balboa Cremation Services

Partridge Creek Mortuary

Emeritus Carlsbad

Rady Childrens Hospital San Diego

Frye Chapel & Mortuary

Bayview Behavioral Health

Neptune Society

Paradise Hills Convalescent

CFDA CALIFORNIA FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

ECRMC El Centro Regional Medical Center An Agency Of The City Of El Centro

Hems Brother Mortuary

San Diego Funeral Service

California Funeral Alternatives

North County Cremation Service

Trident Society

UCSD JACOBS MEDICAL CENTER

UCSD HILLCREST MEDICAL CENTER

UC San Diego Health

Del Capri Nursing Home

Alvarado Convalescent Hospital

American Cremation Services

Aztlán Mortuary Services

Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton

Vitas Innovative Hospice Care

Preferred Cremation & Burial

Kearney Mesa Convalescent Hospital

VA U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

KAISER SAN DIEGO

Eternal Hills Mortuary

Cali Home Funeral Services, Inc.

Clairemont Mortuary

Altar Funeral Home

San Diego Cremation Service

KAISER PERMANENTE®

KAISER ZION

Alhiser-Comer Mortuary

El Camino Memorial

Funeraria del Angel

Cypress View Mausoleum & Mortuary

Abbey Cremation & Funeral Service

Interim Gift of Hospice Cremation Services, Inc

American Cremation Services

Gare Center Cremation & Burial

All Souls Cremation & Burial

Cortez Cremations & Funeral Services

AM Israel Mortuary

Bishop Mortuary

Kindred Hospital San Diego

Select MEDICAL

Alvarado Parkway Institute Behavioral Health

East County Mortuary

Greenwood Mortuary

ALVARADO HOSPITAL MEDICAL CENTER

Community Mortuary

Tri-City Medical Center

Telophase Cremation Service

Berry Bell & Hall Mortuary

Paradise Valley Hospital

Beardsley-Mitchell Funeral Home

Anderson Ragsdale Mortuary

Trinity Funeral Services San Diego

PALOMAR MEDICAL CENTER POWAY

Poway Healthcare

Funerals Your Way

Garden Terrace

Allen Brothers Mortuary

Miramar Memorial Services

Point Loma Convalescent

Featheringhill Mortuary

SCRIPPS GREEN

SCRIPPS MERCY SAND DIEGO

SCRIPPS GREEN

SCRIPPS MERCY CHULA VISTA

SCRIPPS MEMORIAL ENCINITAS

SCRIPPS MEMORIAL LAJOLLA

SCRIPPS MEMORIAL VISTA

SHARP MEMORIAL

SHARP MARY BIRCH HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN & NEWBORNS

SHARP GROSSMONT

SHARP CORONADO

SHARP CHULA VISTA

Villa Coronado/Pomerado

Hospice of the North Coast

California Cremation & Burial Services

Direct Cremation

Accucare Cremation Center

Birch-Patrick Convalescent

Edgemoor Hospital

Merkley-Mitchell Mortuary

PALOMAR MEDICAL CENTER

PALOMAR HEALTH

Legacy Funeral and Cremation Care

Paris-Frederick Mortuary

Boulder Creek Post Acute Nursing Home

La Vista Memorial Park & Mortuary

Bayview Cremation & Burial Services

PIONEERS

Funeraria La Paz

Lakepointe Cremation & Burial

Goodboy Mortuary

Bonham Brothers & Stewart Mortuary

SCRIPPS MEMORIAL VISTA

SCRIPPS MEMORIAL LAJOLLA

SCRIPPS MEMORIAL CHULA VISTA

EYE BANK

CREATING A WORLD OF VISION...®

Eye Bank