



CHAPTER 130A
ARTICLE 16 - POSTMORTEM INVESTIGATION AND DISPOSITION

N.C.G.S. § 130A-412.4.

Definitions.

SOURCE	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT	RETRIEVED	SOURCE FINGERPRINT
General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	No amendment history on record	21 September 2026, 04:15 UTC	dbc3c07898b5f9694b51f469 - 8ef18907111a4a8e66e4bb21 - 761baba3ee26e189

The following definitions apply in this Part:

"Adult" means an individual who is at least 18 years of age.

"Agent" means an individual:

- a. Authorized to make an anatomical gift on the principal's behalf under a power of attorney for health care; or
- b. Expressly authorized to make an anatomical gift on the principal's behalf by any other record signed by the principal.

"Anatomical gift" means a donation of all or part of a human body to take effect after the donor's death for the purpose of transplantation, therapy, research, or education.

"Body part" means an organ, an eye, or tissue of a human being. The term does not include the whole body.

"Decedent" means a deceased individual whose body or body part is or may be the source of an anatomical gift. The term includes a stillborn infant and, subject to restrictions imposed by law other than this Article, a fetus.

"Disinterested witness" means any individual except for the following:

- a. The donor's: spouse, child, parent, sibling, grandchild, grandparent, or guardian.
- b. An adult who exhibited special care and concern for the donor.
- c. A person to whom an anatomical gift could pass under G.S. 130A-412.13.

"Document of gift" means a donor card or other record used to make an anatomical gift. The term includes a statement or symbol on a drivers license, identification card, or donor registry.

"Donor" means an individual whose body or body part is the subject of an anatomical gift.

"Donor registry" means a database that contains records of anatomical gifts and amendments to or revocations of anatomical gifts.

"Drivers license" means a license or permit issued by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles, to operate a vehicle, whether or not conditions are attached to the license or permit.

"Eye bank" means an entity that is licensed, accredited, or regulated under federal or state law to engage in the recovery, screening, testing, processing, storage, or distribution of human eyes or portions of human eyes.

"Guardian" means a person appointed by a court to make decisions regarding the support, care, education, health, or welfare of an individual. The term does not include a guardian ad litem.

"Health care decision" means any decision made regarding the health care of the prospective donor.

"Hospital" means a facility licensed as a hospital under the law of any state or a facility operated as a hospital by the United States, a state, or a subdivision of a state.

"Identification card" means an identification card issued by the North Carolina Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles.

"Know" means to have actual knowledge.

"Minor" means an individual who is under 18 years of age.

"Organ procurement organization" means a person designated by the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services as an organ procurement organization.

"Parent" means a parent whose parental rights have not been terminated.

"Person" means an individual, corporation, business trust, estate, trust, partnership, limited liability company, association, joint venture, public corporation, government or governmental subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or any other legal or commercial entity.

"Physician" means an individual authorized to practice medicine or osteopathy under the law of any state.

"Procurement organization" means an eye bank, organ procurement organization, or tissue bank.

"Prospective donor" means an individual who is dead or near death and has been determined by a procurement organization to have a body part that could be medically suitable for transplantation, therapy, research, or education. The term does not include an individual who has made a refusal.

"Reasonably available" means able to be contacted by a procurement organization without undue effort and willing and able to act in a timely manner consistent with existing medical criteria necessary for the making of an anatomical gift.

"Recipient" means an individual into whose body a decedent's body part has been or is intended to be transplanted.

"Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is retrievable in perceivable form.

"Refusal" means a record created under G.S. 130A-412.9 that expressly states an intent to bar other persons from making an anatomical gift of an individual's body or body part.

"Sign" means, with the present intent to authenticate or adopt a record:

- a.To execute or adopt a tangible symbol; or
- b.To attach to or logically associate with the record an electronic symbol, sound, or process.

"State" means a state of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

"Technician" means an individual determined to be qualified to remove or process body parts by an appropriate organization that is licensed, accredited, or regulated under federal or state law. The term includes an enucleator.

"Tissue" means a portion of the human body other than an organ or an eye. The term does not include blood unless the blood is donated for the purpose of research or education.

"Tissue bank" means a person that is licensed, accredited, or regulated under federal or state law to engage in the recovery, screening, testing, processing, storage, or distribution of tissue.

"Transplant hospital" means a hospital that furnishes organ transplants and other medical and surgical specialty services required for the care of transplant patients. (2007-538, s. 1.)

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS II
2 AUTHORITIES

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 130A-412.13		"an anatomical gift could pass under"

G.S. 130A-412.9

(null)(26)

""Refusal" means a record created under"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 130A-412.4 (2026).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

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