

(e) "Person" means any individual, corporation, government or governmental agency or subdivision, estate, trust, partnership or association, or any other legal entity.

(f) "Physician" or "surgeon" means any physician or surgeon licensed to practice under the laws of the State.

4-502.

(a) Because of the rapid medical progress in the field of tissue and organ preservation, the transplantation of tissue, and tissue culture, and because it is in the public interest to aid the development of this field of medicine, it is the policy and purpose of the General Assembly of Maryland in enacting this subtitle to encourage and aid the development of reconstructive medicine and surgery and the development of medical research by facilitating authorizations for premortem and postmortem donations of tissue and organs.

(b) It is the purpose of this subtitle to regulate only the gift of a body or parts of a body to be made after the death of a donor.

4-503.

(a) Any individual who is 18 years of age or over and who is competent to execute a will may give all or any part of his body for any one or more of the purposes specified in this subtitle. The gift takes effect after death of the donor.

(b) (1) [Unless he] IF THE DECEDENT HAS NOT MADE A GIFT OF ALL OR PART OF THE DECEDENT'S BODY FOR PURPOSES OF THIS SUBTITLE, UNLESS THE PERSON has knowledge that contrary directions have been given by the decedent, the following persons, in the order of priority stated, may give all or any part of a body of a decedent for any one or more of the purposes specified in this subtitle:

[(1)] (I) The spouse, if one survives;

[(2)] (II) An adult son or daughter;

[(3)] (III) Either parent;

[(4)] (IV) An adult brother or sister;

[(5)] (V) The guardian of the person of the decedent at the time of his death;

(VI) A FRIEND OR OTHER RELATIVE OF THE DECEDENT, IF THE INDIVIDUAL:

1. IS A COMPETENT INDIVIDUAL; AND

2. PRESENTS AN AFFIDAVIT TO THE ~~ATTENDING PHYSICIAN~~

HOSPITAL STATING:

A. THAT THE INDIVIDUAL IS A RELATIVE OR CLOSE FRIEND OF THE DECEDENT; AND