



**Burials at Sea – In Life Consent**

**DNA CONSENT FORM – IN LIFE**

**In order to give consent “in life” to a burial at sea at the MMO’s Needles designated site, it is necessary to complete the following actions;**

1. The living Consenter has to specifically make written reference in their “Last Will Testament” that they wish to be buried at sea and that they consent to DNA samples being taken post their death.
2. That your DNA profile will be obtained from samples taken, and this profile will be loaded to the Missing Persons DNA Database along with your record. A record containing these details will be loaded onto the UKMPU database, Hermes. Additionally, the attached signed DNA HTA Consent Form has to be lodged as a codicil to the Consenter’s Will.
3. The Consenter’s Executors will have been briefed to follow the instructions of the Will.

The Consenter (in life) must be given every opportunity to understand the reasons and purpose of the DNA Samples and why these samples come under the Human Tissue Authority Act 2004 (HTA 2004).

To complete the “In Life” consent form, the person taking the consent has to be registered by the HTA as an individual whom is authorised to take such consent.

**Burials at Sea Consent Form – Background**

The signed consent form ensures that the University Hospital Southampton NHSFT Mortuary Department are satisfied that appropriate consent has been obtained for the taking of and temporary storage of tissue taken from the deceased person as part of the licence to be buried at sea.

This is in line with the requirements of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and in compliance with the HTA 2004 and follows the HTA’s codes of practice on Consent (Codes A and B). More information can be found by visiting the HTA website (<https://www.hta.gov.uk>)

The person taking the consent must ensure that the “In Life” consenter is able to sign to say they have no objection to the taking of human tissues for the purpose of DNA profiling. The completion of the consent form is just one part of the consent process. Full explanation of the procedure along with discussion and time for reflection by those consenting (or stating they have no objection), are equally important. This form is required as a record of the consent being given.

Consent is only valid if proper communication has taken place. Consideration should be given to the needs of individuals whose first language is not English.

Those seeking consent for human tissue to be taken for the purposes of a Burial at Sea must be trained in how to obtain appropriate and informed consent and must have completed the relevant Burials at Sea informed consent training course delivered by the Human Tissue Authority. More information on this training can be found within the detailed Burials at Sea guidance on the MMO website.

This consent form covers consent for the obtaining of three DNA samples; consisting of a deep muscle sample, a blood sample and a buccal swab to be taken from the mouth of the deceased. In the rare event that one of the above DNA sample types cannot be taken, this consent form also provides consent for a tooth to be taken from the deceased. These samples are to be taken at a HTA licensed establishment for the purpose of obtaining a DNA profile from the deceased person wishing to be buried at sea, and for that tissue to be transferred via Police courier to a Forensic Service Provider for a DNA profile to be obtained and for that DNA profile to be loaded onto the Missing Persons DNA Data base. The profile will be retained on this database and searched against any DNA profiles of bodies or body parts subsequently found either washed ashore, or otherwise located. The DNA profile will not be searched against criminal DNA databases or used for any other purpose. The body tissue obtained for this purpose will be disposed of in a respectful manner once the DNA profile has been obtained.

**Consent for the taking of tissue from the deceased for the purpose of DNA profiling**



## Burials at Sea – In Life Consent

**Consent for the taking of tissue from the “In Life” Consenter for the purpose of DNA profiling and retention**

Please read the below statements carefully with the person obtaining consent from you. For each section tick the relevant box to indicate your decisions and complete the detail required beneath.

Name of person wishing to give consent “In Life”:

Date of birth:

- ☐ I confirm that I have had the opportunity to read and understand the contents of this form.
- ☐ I confirm that my questions about the obtaining of human tissue from the above named have been answered to my satisfaction and understanding.
- ☐ I consent to the taking of three DNA samples from the person names above. These samples will consist of a sample of deep muscle, a sample of blood and a buccal swab taken from within the mouth. Where necessary, if one of the three listed samples cannot be obtained, I also consent to the taking of a tooth from the mouth of the deceased person. I understand that the reason for DNA samples to be taken is to allow the issuance of a Burial at Sea license and confirm that I have no objection to the taking of human tissue samples for the stated purpose.
- ☐ I confirm that I consent to the DNA profile obtained for the deceased person to be loaded to the Missing Persons DNA Database and retained indefinitely to allow any remains which may be located in the future to be checked against the DNA profile held for this person.

Signed by..... Full Name.....

Address.....

Tel. number .....

Email Address .....

Date .....

If you change your mind and wish to withdraw your consent please contact the person below;

Contact.....

Telephone Number.....

Email address.....



Burials at Sea – In Life Consent

**Notes for person(s) obtaining consent**

- I confirm that the person consenting has a full understanding of the procedure set out in this consent form
- I confirm that I have checked that the person consenting is the appropriate person for the purposes of the Human Tissue Act 2004 *[See guidance note]*
- I can confirm I have offered a copy of this form to the person giving consent
- I can confirm I have explained that if consent is subsequently withdrawn prior to the burial at sea, the Burial at Sea licence will no longer be valid and the deceased will not be permitted to be buried at sea.
- I can confirm I have informed the person highest in the hierarchy of qualifying relationships that after the deceased has been buried at sea, consent to retain the DNA profile on the Missing Persons DNA data base cannot be withdrawn.
- I can confirm I have completed the 'Burials at Sea informed consent training' delivered by the Human Tissue Authority and understand the meaning of 'appropriate and informed consent' for this purpose. I am also aware that as well as completing the initial 'Burials at Sea informed consent training', I am also required to contact the Human Tissue Authority to request a competency based assessment every 12 months after the completion of the initial course. This is to ensure I remain competent in the requirements of taking consent.

Signed by.....

Name.....

Date.....

Date of completed training course.....