

## Ring, Carlyle

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**From:** Ken Stoner [kmstoner@earthlink.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, March 13, 2004 8:18 AM  
**To:** 'Joshua Slocum'; ccring@ober.com  
**Cc:** 'Ernie Marriner'; 'Gere Fulton'; 'Lamar Hankins'  
**Subject:** RE: Uniform Anatomical Gift Act

Very good letter. Well crafted.

Ken

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Joshua Slocum [mailto:joshua@funerals.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 12, 2004 5:51 PM  
**To:** ccring@ober.com  
**Cc:** Ernie Marriner; Gere Fulton; Lamar Hankins; Ken Stoner  
**Subject:** Uniform Anatomical Gift Act

March 12, 2004

Mr. Carlyle Ring  
Chairman  
Study Committee on Amending the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act  
National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws

Dear Mr. Ring:

I am writing to you as the executive director of Funeral Consumers Alliance, a national, nonprofit consumer education and advocacy organization based in South Burlington, Vermont. On July 1, 2003, I delivered to Burlington attorney, Carl Lisman, a letter addressed to the NCCUSL, along with more than one hundred pages of documentation. The letter, signed by Dr. Gere B. Fulton, chairman of the FCA Legal Committee, and by me, asked the NCCUSL to consider whether the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (UAGA) should be amended. Mr. Lisman had offered to personally deliver this package of materials to the NCCUSL.

Our letter asked the NCCUSL to consider several matters. Primary among these was whether the UAGA should be amended to clarify the definition of "reasonable fees" that may be collected for the processing and distribution of willed bodies, and whether informed consent standards should be strengthened.

FCA and other organizations, including some willed-body programs at medical colleges, have noted disturbing activities relating to the use of donated human bodies and tissue. As you are no doubt aware, the national media have again begun reporting on the apparent misuses of donated bodies and tissue, misuses which appear to include the sale, for profit, of donor bodies.

As supporters of the public's choice to donate their bodies for humanitarian and scientific reasons, FCA and its affiliate chapters around the country are alarmed at these events. Among our primary concerns are the profiteering that can occur through the distribution of donated bodies, and the effects these activities could have on the public's confidence in the legitimate institutions to which many donate their bodies or tissue.

Several months ago, I spoke with John McCabe, the NCCUSL's legal

counsel, regarding the status of the study committee formed to explore questions connected to the UAGA. Mr. McCabe indicated the study committee was still in the process of examining the issues. Today, I spoke with Katie Robinson, communications director for the NCCUSL, who advised me to correspond with you by email.

We would be very interested in any information you might be able to provide on the study committee's progress in determining a course of action. We would also be very happy to provide the committee with any assistance we can, including additional documentation we have collected.

I look forward to speaking or corresponding with you. If there is a time and date that is convenient for you, please let me know so that we can schedule a telephone call.

Sincerely,

Joshua Slocum  
Executive Director  
Funeral Consumers Alliance  
33 Patchen Road  
South Burlington, VT 05403  
802-865-8300  
[www.funerals.org](http://www.funerals.org)

cc: Ernest Marriner, President, Funeral Consumers Alliance  
Dr. Gere B. Fulton, Chairman, FCA Legal Committee  
Lamar Hankins, FCA Legal Committee  
Ken Stoner, FCA Legal Committee