



Obtaining a National Donor Card (Frequently asked questions) Information/Instruction Sheet

1. How can I register my decision to donate my organs after my death (brain death)?

- a. The best way to register as an organ donor is to download the form from the following links, print it, and then post the completed form to:

Health Information Unit,
Teaching Hospital,
Peradeniya.

(Signatures and details of the two witnesses are essential to validate this document)

English Application: [Download Application](#)

- b. You can also collect, fill, and hand in the registration forms at the Health Information Unit at Teaching Hospital, Peradeniya, or you can visit at Teaching Hospital Peradeniya website and [download it](#).

2. Can I donate my organs if I die at home?

- a. **No**, you can only donate your organs when a 'brain death' is diagnosed in an intensive care setting while you are connected to a machine.
- b. Brain death is when a person no longer has activity in their brain stem due to a severe brain injury. They have permanently lost the potential for consciousness and the capacity to breathe. When this happens, a machine called a ventilator keeps oxygen circulating through the person's bloodstream.
- c. Brain death will always be diagnosed by a panel of expert doctors in an intensive care unit.

3. Can I choose to become an organ donor if I have certain medical conditions?

- a. **Yes**, you may register and in the event of brain death, doctors will consider your suitability for donation on an individual basis. Remember, even if your organs are unsuitable for transplantation, certain tissues can still be transplanted to help other people in need.

4. Is there an age limit to becoming an organ donor after death?

- a. According to Sri Lankan law, you must be **at least 21 years** of age to donate your organs after death. However, this age may change in the future to include younger donors if appropriate legislation is passed.
- b. **There is no upper age limit**. However, when we get older, all of our internal organs get weaker. Therefore, if we transplant weaker organs, the benefit to the recipient is minimal. Generally, **age above 75 years is not considered for organ donation**.

5. Will doctors make sure I'm dead before removing my organs?

- a. You can only become an organ donor AFTER a panel of expert doctors pronounces you dead. There are strict guidelines governing the confirmation of brain death which are accepted worldwide.

6. Will there be a disfigurement to the body after I donate my organs following my death? Will there be any changes or delays to my funeral proceedings?

- a. The organ retrieval is done by a team of expert surgeons inside an operating theater just like any other surgery. Therefore, the body is handled with utmost respect.
- b. As the time of death is considered as the time of "brain death" confirmation, there won't be a delay in handing over the body to the relatives after the procedure.
- c. There is no need to alter the funeral proceedings and be conducted according to your religion /beliefs.

7. Will the organ removal be painful to the donor?

- a. **No.** Once the brain is no longer functioning (brain dead), he/she will not have any sensations including pain.

8. Can my family members know who received my organs?

- a. **No,** it is unethical to divulge this sensitive information.
- b. The recipient also will not know anything about the donor.

9. What happens after I register my decision to donate my organs after my death (brain death?)

- a. When you submit your completed registration form, we will issue you a donor card to confirm your registration.
- b. In addition, the information you have provided will be stored securely in a database under your national identity card number (NIC).
- c. Following an unfortunate event if you happen to get admitted to any government hospital and a brain death diagnosis is made, the hospital staff can look up your NIC number across the databases to confirm your registration status.
- d. When the doctors have contacted your next of kin (closest relative) and if he/she consents, the donation process will be initiated.

10. If I am registered and have a donor in case of brain death, will doctors take my organs directly?

- a. **No,** the doctors will always contact your next of kin to obtain consent before proceeding with the donation process. Your donor card will help us to initiate the consenting process.
- b. Even if you do not have this card, the process will be easier if your next of kin has been informed about your wish to donate organs.



Consent for Organ and Tissue Donation

I hereby give my consent to donate organs and/or tissues given transplantation following my death (Brain Death)

(Please refer to the information leaflets provided before giving consent)

Name:

Date of Birth:

National Identity Card No:

Male: Female: Blood Group:

Address:

Phone No. Email Address:

Grama Niladhari Division:

Divisional Secretariat:

District:

Emergency Contact Details	
Name:
Address:
Phone No:
Relationship:

Consent for organ and /or donation (Please mark with a ✓)

- Kidneys
- Liver
- Heart
- Lungs
- Pancreas
- Bowels
- Eyes
- Other tissues (hones, ligaments etc.)

I am signing, after clearly understanding the above and I give consent for organ and/or tissue given Organ transplantation donation following my death (Brain Death) while having full capacity of my senses.

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Date

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Signature

Witnesses

Name

NIC NO

Signature

1.

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2.

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