

## ORGAN DONATION PROCESS

There are two ways to donate organs: -

- By pledging for organ donation when a person is alive
- By consent of family after death.

During lifetime, a person can pledge for organ donation by filling up a donor form in the presence of two witnesses, one of whom shall be a near relative.

It is suggested to keep the donor card in your pocket and share your decision with your near and dear ones.

If a person expires without registration, the family members can donate his/her organs. For this they need to sign a consent form, which is provided at that time.



Once, the relatives give a written consent, organs are harvested within a few hours.

The family of the donor does not face any difficulty or extra burden upon them.

The transplant coordination team carries out the entire process till the relatives receive the body of the deceased.

The deceased body is given back to the family in a dignified way.

There is no disfigurement. The body can be viewed as in any case of death and funeral arrangements need not be delayed.

## Procedure for organ donation

### **What is organ donation?**

In organ donation, a person pledges during her/his lifetime, that after death, organ/s from the body can be used for transplantation to help terminally ill patients get a new lease of life. According to the law, however, the prerogative on the decision eventually rests with the next of kin of the deceased.

### **Legal position on organ donations:**

Organ donations are legal by Indian law. The Indian government enacted the Transplantation of Human Organs Act (THOA), 1994, which allows organ donation, and legalized the concept of 'brain death'.

### **Brain death:**

Brain death is the irreversible and permanent cessation of all brain functions. In situations of brain

oxygenation of organs so that the organs are in a healthy condition until they are removed. Organs of such patients can be transplanted to terminally ill patients.

### **Documents required:**

The donor needs to fill a prescribed consent form, which can either be downloaded from the ministry of health and family welfare, government of India (<http://mohfw.nic.in/>) or accessed from the medical facility that is approached for organ removal.

A written consent form from the lawful custodian of the body after the death of the patient in a prescribed application form.

The potential donor can also approach organ donation agencies for a donor card. Although not legally binding, the donor card is a means of expressing ones willingness to donate kidneys and make family more understanding towards the cause.

### **Points to remember:**

A panel of four doctors needs to declare brain stem death twice in a time frame of six hours. These are: the medical administrator in charge of the hospital, an authorized specialist, a neurologist/neurosurgeon and the medical officer treating patient.

Healthy organs should be transplanted as soon as possible from the donor to the recipient.

The authority to give consent for organ donation lies with the person lawfully in possession of the dead body.