



Donation Terms

As information about donation is shared, we ask that you remain sensitive and respectful to the donors who gave the ultimate gifts and their families by using the appropriate terms.

Appropriate Term

“recover” organs
“recovery” of organs
“deceased” donation
“deceased” donor
“mechanical” support
“ventilator”
“organ donation after circulatory death”
“deteriorating to brain death”
“authorization given”
“donated organs and tissues”
“decision” (legally-binding) to register

Inappropriate Term

“harvest” organs
“harvesting” of organs
“cadaveric” or “cadaver” donation
“cadaver” donor
“life” support
“life” support
“non-heart beating donation”
“progressing to brain death”
“obtained consent”
“donated body parts”
“desire/wish to register”

To become a designated organ donor, one must register their decision by saying yes at the DMV when obtaining their drivers’ license or state ID card or by visiting HonorBridge.org.

Donor cards are no longer used and are no longer the legal representation of one’s designated decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor.