

# Your organs, your choice...

## The law around organ donation in England has changed

### You still have a choice

#### Organ donation in England has now changed to an 'opt out' system

All adults in England will be considered to have agreed to be an organ and tissue donor when they die, unless they have recorded a decision not to donate, have told their family they don't wish to donate or are in one of the following excluded groups:

- people under the age of 18
- people who lack the mental capacity to understand the new arrangements and take the necessary action
- people who have lived in England for less than 12 months before their death
- visitors to England
- people who are not living here voluntarily.

The new system will only apply to organs and tissues that will be used for routine transplants.

You still have a choice if you want to be a donor or not when you die. Your choices are outlined on the back of this leaflet.

#### Please make and share your organ donation decision

Talk about it with your family and friends so that they know your decision and you know theirs.

#### Why is it important that you share your organ donation decision?

Your family will be consulted if you can possibly donate when you die.

There are a number of reasons for this:

- Out of consideration to your family
- They may have more current information about your donation decision than any recorded on the NHS Organ Donor Register
- Your family can tell us about any particular requests or requirements you have, to ensure that organ donation goes ahead in line with your faith or beliefs
- The information your family provides would help ensure your organs are safe for others to receive

If you do not have close family and friends, or prefer someone else to be consulted on your behalf, you have the option to use the NHS Organ Donor Register to nominate a trusted representative.

Find out more and record your decision

Visit [organdonation.nhs.uk](https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk)

## What is organ and tissue donation?

Organ donation is the gift of an organ to help someone who needs a transplant. Thousands of lives in the UK are saved or improved each year by organ transplants. Organs that can be donated by people who have died include:

- heart
- kidneys
- liver
- lungs
- pancreas
- small bowel

Tissue such as skin, bone, heart valves and corneas can also be used to improve people's lives.

## Why has the law changed?

The law has changed to help save and improve more lives. There has been tremendous progress in organ donation but there is still a shortage of donors. Every day across the UK, someone dies waiting for a transplant.

## Will your faith or beliefs be respected?

**Yes.** Our specialist nurses always take a very personalised approach to discussions with families to address any questions they may have about how your faith or beliefs would be respected before, during or after the donation process.

If you choose to register as an organ donor, when you do so online, via the NHS App or via our Helpline, you can state whether you want the NHS to speak to your family and anyone else appropriate about organ donation in line with your faith or beliefs. Our specialist nurses will be able to see whether you have answered this question when looking up your registration on the NHS Organ Donor Register.

Find out more about how your faith or belief will be respected

Visit [organdonation.nhs.uk](https://organdonation.nhs.uk)

## The choices you can make

**You can still choose, at any time, whether you want to register as a donor or opt out of organ donation.**

**You can:**

- **Register to be a donor**  
Choose to donate some or all of your organs and tissues in the event of your death
- **Register not to be a donor**  
Opt out of all organ and tissue donation
- **Change or amend**  
Update your details or donation choice from a previous registration
- **Nominate someone to make the decision for you**  
This can be any person you trust to make the decision, and means this person will be approached rather than next of kin.
- **Withdraw from the register**  
We understand that you may want to be removed from the register. If you withdraw from the register, we will not have a decision about organ donation on file.

## Tell us, then tell your family

Even now the law has changed, a patient's family or next of kin will still be approached before organ donation goes ahead.

Families find it easier to support organ donation decisions, when they already know what their relative wanted.

Give your family the certainty of knowing what you want, by joining the NHS Organ Donor Register and letting them know your decision.

Find out more and record your decision

Visit [organdonation.nhs.uk](https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk)

You can also record your decision through the NHS app.

If you can't find what you need online or you are still unsure, you can call the Organ Donor Line on: **0300 123 23 23**

If you are hard of hearing please use our text relay service: **18001 0300 1232323**

Text us on **07860 034 343**

## Additional information

If you wish to amend or withdraw your record on the NHS Organ Donor Register you can do so by calling the Organ Donor Line on **0300 123 23 23**, visiting [www.organdonation.nhs.uk](https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk) or writing to: Freepost RRZK-SHUX-SBCK, NHS Blood and Transplant, Fox Den Road, Stoke Gifford, Bristol BS34 8RR. You can also download the NHS App and amend your decision there.

The NHS Organ Donor Register is a confidential and secure database where you can record your organ donation decision, stating whether or not you want to donate your organs and tissue when you die. If organ donation becomes a possibility, specialist nurses will consult the register to see if a person has recorded a decision to be, or not to be, a donor.

This leaflet shows many ways you can record your decision, but whatever you decide, it is important to tell your loved ones so that they can support your donation decision.



Hilaria was on the waiting list for a kidney transplant for six years after suffering multiple organ failure.

***“When I got the call it was like a miracle. I just wanted to burst into song, and sing! I cannot thank my donor and their family enough, for giving me a second chance at life.”***



NHSOrganDonor