

# Organ and tissue donation

## In brief



Bundeszentrale  
für  
gesundheitliche  
Aufklärung

**ORGAN**  
**SPENDE**  
Die Entscheidung zählt!

*Sick or disabled people can get a second chance of a new or better life from an organ or tissue transplant. This can and will only be done by people consenting when still alive to donate their organs and/or tissues after their death. Therefore, we ask you to consider this important issue of organ and tissue donation, make your own personal choice and document it!*

## **I Requirements**

Organs and tissues may only be removed – providing consent has been provided – if irreversible functional failure of the brain (“brain death”) has been established beyond doubt. For tissue removal, a person’s cardiac cycle must have failed for over three hours.

## **I Age limits**

Adolescents can declare their consent to donate their organs and/or tissues without the approval of a parent or guardian over the age of 16. Minors from the age of 14 onwards may oppose organ or tissue donation. There is no fixed upper age limit for organ donations from adults: the actual biological condition of the organs is the real decisive factor here. All organs and tissues are thoroughly examined before any transplantation. For this reason, there is no need to have a prior medical examination to donate your organs and/or tissues after your death.

### **You can donate the following organs:**

Heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas, intestine.

### **You can donate the following tissues:**

Cornea and sclera of the eyes, heart valves, skin, blood vessels, bony, cartilaginous and soft tissue, as well as tissue obtained from the pancreas or liver. Unlike organs, tissues are generally not transplanted directly. They are preserved and temporarily stored in tissue banks until a suitable recipient is found.

# Organ Donor Card



acc. to Section 2 of the German Transplantation Act

# Organ Donation

.....  
Last name, First name

.....  
Date of birth

.....  
Street

.....  
Postcode, Town



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If you have any questions, call the Organ Donation Hotline on freephone  
0800/90 40 400.

*Fill out the Organ Donor Card clearly and legibly and keep it with the personal papers you always carry on your person.*

## I Documenting your decision

You have the following options to document your decision:

- Organ Donation Register
- Organ Donor Card
- Advance Healthcare Directive (living will)

### Organ Donation Register

It is simple and easy to document your decision. Register your decision in the Organ Donation Register at [www.organspende-register.de](http://www.organspende-register.de). Your data is secure there. You have access to the data saved in the register at all times to change your entry. You can document your decision either for or against organ and tissue donation. As an alternative to the register, you can also document your decision on an Organ Donor Card or in an Advance Healthcare Directive (living will).

### Organ Donor Card

The Organ Donor Card ensures that your personal wishes are respected. Should you wish to change your decision, simply dispose of the old card and fill in a new one. Documenting your decision also takes pressure off your relatives. If your wishes have not been documented, your relatives have to decide what to do based on what they know or presume to be the wishes of the deceased. If the presumed wishes cannot be determined, your relatives will be asked to decide in accordance with their own personal views.

If organ/tissue donation for transplantation is possible after my death, I declare:

- YES**, I give permission for organs and tissue to be taken from my body after a doctor has certified my death.
- or  **YES**, I give permission for the use of organs and tissue, **except** the following:
- or  **YES**, I give my permission, but **only** for the following organs and tissue:
- or  **NO**, I do not wish organs or tissue to be taken from my body.
- or  The following person should decide YES or NO:

.....  
Last name, First name

.....  
Telephone number

.....  
Street

.....  
Postcode, Town

.....  
Space for notes/additional information

.....  
DATE

.....  
SIGNATURE

*The back of the card lists five possible decisions. Please tick only one of the five declarations.*



**INFOTELEFON  
ORGANSPENDE  
0800 - 90 40 400**

### Organ Donation Hotline

If you have any further questions, call the Organ Donation Hotline on freephone 0800/90 40 400, Monday to Friday 9.00 to 18.00.

### Further questions

You can e-mail your questions to the BZgA at [organspende@bzga.de](mailto:organspende@bzga.de). Information is also available online at [www.organspende-info.de](http://www.organspende-info.de). You can also ask your family doctor for advice.



Or scan the code

### Further information material

Information on organ and tissue donation in general: [www.organspende-info.de](http://www.organspende-info.de) → Mediathek → Infomaterialien

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