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# THE FACTS OF DONATING LIFE

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- You are three times more likely to need organ transplantation than ever to be in the unfortunate circumstance of being a donor. We are not asking you to commit your body to science or research, purely transplantation after your death, to someone in need of organs or tissue transplantation.
  - Signing the donor card signals your willingness to allow your organs and tissue to be transplanted. Your "Next-of-kin" will have the final decision on donation. You should let them know your wishes now.
  - A potential donor would have to be in hospital, maintained on a life-support machine, and brain stem dead.
  - Machines can keep the blood circulating after death and this allows organs to be used for transplantation. However, a patient who is brain stem dead cannot recover.
  - The permission sought from your "Next-of-Kin" is for organs and tissue for transplantation only. No organs are removed unless a specific recipient is identified and ready to receive a transplant.
  - Nearly all organ donors are the sufferers of brain trauma through accident, brain haemorrhage and brain tumour.
  - The national co-ordination of organ donation is administered by the "Organ Procurement Centre" in Beaumont Hospital, Dublin 9.
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