Donorregister
Ministerie van Volksgezondheid,
Welzijn en Sport

> Return address: Postbus 3172 6401 DR Heerlen

This letter is available in different languages:
www.donorregister.nl/welkom

Sent on
Date of the letter

READ

Register your choice today

regarding donating your organs and tissues

Dear reader,

You have been living in the Netherlands for a few years. Everyone aged 18 and older who lives in the Netherlands is added to the Donor Register. The register keeps a record of whether or not you want to donate your organs and tissues in the event of your death. This is a difficult subject. However, please take a few moments to read this letter and add your choice to the Donor Register. In this letter we will explain why it is important to register your choice, and how you can do this.

Why register your choice?

It is important to add your choice to the Donor Register and to discuss it with your partner or family. They will then know which choice you have registered in the Donor Register in the event of your death. That will make things easier for your partner or family at the hospital. So please register your own choice after you have read this letter.

What happens if you do not register a choice?

If you **do not** register a choice, the Donor Register will state that you have **no objection** to donating your organs. This means that your organs may be given to a patient after your death. A doctor will discuss this with your partner or family first.

MAKING YOUR CHOICE

It's your decision. You have four options to choose from.

Below are the four choices. You can choose one option.
It is also good to know that whichever option you choose, you can always change this at a later point in time.

1.
Yes, I want to become a donor

You want to be a donor. You can choose which organs and tissues you wish to donate.

2.
No, I do not want to become a donor

You do not want to be a donor.

3.
I designate a person to make this choice on my behalf in the event of my death

You want someone else to make this choice for you after your death. You should let this person know that you have designated them.

4.
My partner or family will decide on my behalf

You want your partner or family to decide on your behalf after your death.

Please turn over

REGISTER YOUR CHOICE

Register your choice. There are two ways to do this:

Online, at donorregister.nl

Step 1: Visit the website: **www.donorregister.nl**
Step 2: Click on 'Vul uw keuze in'
(Register your choice)
Step 3: Log in with your DigiD
Step 4: Enter your choice

Use the printed form

Step 1: Complete the form
Step 2: Sign the form
Step 3: Send the form by post using the reply envelope

Further questions

We understand that this is a difficult decision to make. And we will be more than happy to answer any questions that you may have.

If you would like to speak to someone,	please call us on **0900-821-2166** (regular rate)
If you would like to know more about how to register your choice,	visit the website: **www.donorregister.nl** You can also visit your **local library**
If you would like more information about donating organs and tissues,	visit the website: **www.orgaandonatie.nl**

With kind regards,

Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport

Explanation of words used on the form

Death
Death means the same as dying. A doctor will conduct an examination to find out whether the patient has died.

Organs and tissues
Organs are parts of the body, such as the heart, lungs or liver. Tissues are cells inside or on the outside of the body, such as bones, muscles or skin.

Donate
Donating means giving. Donating an organ or tissue means giving them to someone else. This will happen after your death. A doctor will remove the organ or tissue from your body. Another doctor will use this organ or tissue for someone who is sick. You can choose whether or not you want to donate.

Transplant
An organ or tissue from someone who has died is given to a patient who needs it. This involves surgery.

Transplantation research
Sometimes an organ or tissue is not suitable for donation. That means that the doctors cannot give it to someone who is sick. However, doctors can still use it for research. Doctors can learn a lot from this research. This research is called transplantation research. It enables doctors to learn how to transplant organs and tissues even better.

Information that is relevant to your decision

Can anybody donate organs and tissues?
Not everyone can donate organs or tissues after they die. When someone dies, a doctor will check whether that person's organs or tissues can be donated. However, everyone is asked to enter a choice in the Donor Register. That includes people who are sick. Everybody should register their choice. That way, your partner and family will know what you want. If you have any questions about whether you can become an organ donor, please visit orgaandonatie.nl

Please turn over

Continuation: Information that is relevant to your decision

What happens when someone becomes an organ donor?

People who die at home can only donate body tissues. Organ donation is only possible when someone dies in a hospital. If a patient can no longer recover, the doctors will discuss this with the family. Organs and tissues are only removed when doctors are 100% sure that the patient has died. Death is determined according to strict rules. This is done by several doctors. For more information about this process, please visit donorregister.nl/donor-worden

How do I make this decision?

If you are finding it difficult to make this decision and you would like more information first, please visit donorregister.nl/uw-keuze-maken

Where can I find more information about donating organs and tissues?

Maybe you have other questions about donating organs and tissues. Can your family members still say goodbye to you? What about religious beliefs? For more information, visit the orgaandonatie.nl website or call 0900- 821 21 66

How do I register a choice for someone who is unable to make this decision?

If a person is incapacitated, he or she cannot register a choice independently. This may be the case for somebody who is living with dementia, for instance. People in this situation often have a representative to make decisions on their behalf. This is often a close family relative, such as a parent of sibling. That representative can make a choice regarding organ donation, and then register this choice.

The choice can be registered by the representative in two ways:

1. Authorization using DigiD on donorregister.nl
   - Log in with your DigiD
   - Complete the form for the person who is unable to take this decision
   - Confirm this choice

2. Using the printed form
   - Complete the form for the person who is unable to take this decision
   - Under section C you fill in: Yes
   - Sign the form and send it

For more information about making a decision on someone else's behalf, please visit donorregister.nl/uw-keuze-maken