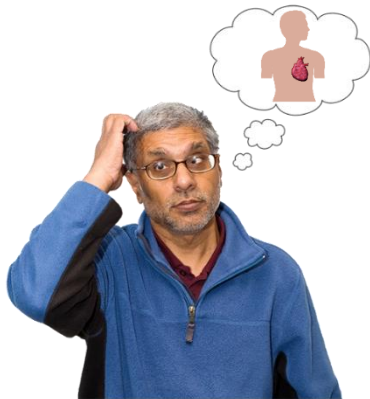


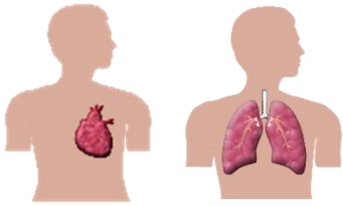
# What is organ and tissue donation?



# How is the law changing in Scotland?



## What is organ and tissue donation?



Organs are parts of your body like the heart, lungs, kidneys and liver.



Tissue is from parts of your body like skin, bone and eyes.



Donation means giving away.

Organ donation means you agree that parts of your body can be used after you die.

If you agree to give away your organs you are called a donor.



Your organs could be put into someone's body in an operation to help them live longer.

This is called a transplant.



A very small number of people will be able to donate their organs as you can only do it if you die in the intensive care part of a hospital.

Lots of people think organ and tissue donation is a good thing but it is up to you if you want to donate or not.



We want everyone to decide if they want to donate or not.

We want them to register on the NHS Organ Donor Register and tell their family about their decision.

## What is changing?



The law on organ and tissue donation in Scotland will change on 26 March.

It will change to an 'opt out' system.



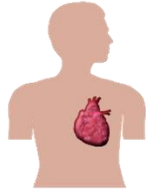
You decide if you want to donate.

You have a choice.

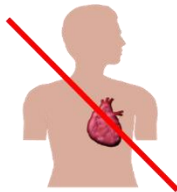


The NHS Organ Donor Register is a list of people who have said what they want to happen to their organs and tissue after they die.

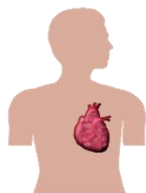
## Your choices



You can choose to be a donor.



You can choose to opt out of donation.  
This means you do not agree to donate your organs.



If you do not register a decision it will be assumed that you agree to be a donor.

## Will my family be involved?



Yes.

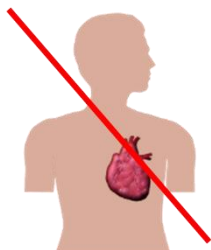
Your family will be told about any decision you had recorded on the NHS Organ Donor Register to check it is what you wanted.

Your decision will be respected.

Your family will be asked to help support your decision.



If you are not on the NHS Organ Donor Register your family will be asked what you thought about donation.



Donation will not go ahead if you told your family it was not what you wanted.

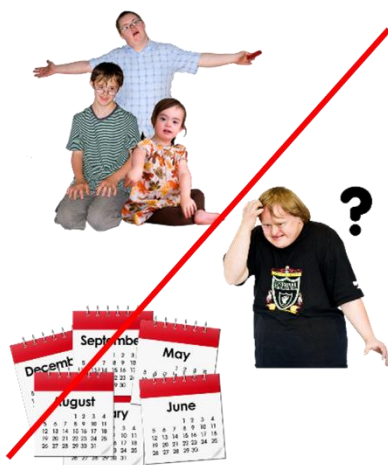


It is very important that you choose if you want to be a donor or not.

It is important to tell your family your decision.



The new opt out system will apply to adults who live and die in Scotland.



It will not apply to:

- children under 16.
- people who cannot understand that they have to opt out if they do not want to be a donor.
- people who have lived in Scotland for less than a year before their death.



If a person in one of these groups dies and they have not made their own decision about donation then their family member will be asked if they agree to the donation.

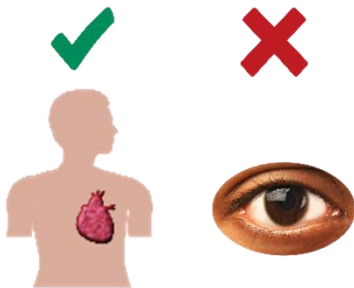
## I want to be a donor. What do I do?



Register online at:

[www.organdonationscotland.org/yes](http://www.organdonationscotland.org/yes)

or call 0300 303 2094.



You can say which organs or tissue you want to donate.



If you have registered and want to:

- check your information
- check your decision
- change your mind and opt out

do this online at:

[www.organdonationscotland.org/update](http://www.organdonationscotland.org/update)

or call: 0300 123 23 23.





If you choose to be a donor you agree that medical tests may be carried out shortly before you die as part of donating.



These tests help doctors to check the transplant will be safe and work well.



The tests may be:

- taking samples of blood and urine to test
- giving medication or other fluids through a drip
- checking your heart or breathing
- x-rays or scans in bed



Specialist nurses will talk to your family and friends to make sure these tests do not happen if you would not have wanted them.



## I do not want to be a donor. What do I do?



Opt out by registering not to be a donor on the NHS Organ Donor Register.



Do this online at:

[www.organdonationscotland.org/no](http://www.organdonationscotland.org/no)

or call 0300 303 2094

## I do not want to record a decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register.



If you do not want to record a decision on the NHS Organ Register, write your decision down.



Do not put this information in your will.

Your will is a letter that lets people know what you want to happen to your money and your things when you die.

Wills are usually not read until after donation could happen.



Tell your family and friends what you have decided.

## What about my religion, faith or beliefs?



You can add information about your religion, faith and beliefs to the NHS Organ Donor Register.



Doctors will talk to your family and friends and make sure donation only happens if it fits with your religion or beliefs.



It is important that people from all backgrounds donate organs and tissue.

If someone gets a transplant from someone from the same ethnic group it will work better.

## Where can I get more information or ask a question?



Find more information online at:  
[www.organdonationscotland.org](http://www.organdonationscotland.org)



If you are not sure what decision to make call the helpline for more information:

Call: 0300 303 2094



Text relay: 18001 0300 1232323

Text chat: 07860 034343



Talk to your family or friends if you are not sure what the law change means.



If you need information in:

- another language

- audio

- or British Sign Language visit:

[www.organdonationscotland.org/resources](http://www.organdonationscotland.org/resources)

