



Fleury, Comery LLP
Barristers & Solicitors

CAN YOU - WILL YOU - BE AN ORGAN DONOR?

While you are in the midst of making many important decisions regarding your estate, we ask you to consider another aspect of your final wishes that can make a very big difference - organ donation.

Why This Memo

This memo is inspired by a newsletter from Hull & Hull LLP, one of Toronto's major law firms specializing in estates law and issues, reminding estate lawyers of the importance of organ and tissue donation in Ontario. As of early 2013, over 1,500 people were waiting for a life-saving transplant and, sadly, in 2013 one person died about every three days while waiting.

Can you help?

Many people mistakenly believe that their age or medical history makes them ineligible to be an organ or tissue donor. The physical and medical condition of the organs and tissue will be assessed at the time of death and will determine what can be donated. The oldest organ donor was over 90, and the oldest tissue donor was over 102. Anyone 16 years of age or higher, regardless of their medical condition is encouraged to register consent for organ and tissue donation in Ontario.

How does it work?

If you do choose to register your consent, your registered donation decision is stored in a confidential database with Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, and is only disclosed after death, or when death is clearly imminent. The disclosure is shared with your family for the purposes of honouring your decision. Although your family can over-rule your decision, in almost all cases families honour and respect your decision. Organ and tissue donation has no financial impact on one's family or estate, and donation does not impact funeral arrangements. Also, you can withdraw or change your donor registration, conveniently and at any time.

Remove the burden from your family

Many families decline organ donation because they do not know the wishes of their loved ones. Registration with the database will of course remove any such burden of decision. Note that EVEN IF you have signed a donor card, it may be lost or unavailable when needed, and such cards are not currently recorded with the Ministry of Health.

Want more information?

The government of Ontario agency's name is "Trillium Gift of Life Network", and you can go online for more information at www.giftoflife.on.ca. You can also contact the agency by e-mail to info@giftforlife.on.ca, or by phone at 1-800-263-2833 or 416-363-4001.

How do you register?

The process of registration is incredibly simple. It takes two minutes online at www.BeADonor.ca, which is Smartphone-enabled. You can also do so at any ServiceOntario centre.

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