



SPEAKING LIFE INTO ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION

Organ and tissue donation is a complex process that combines both deep grief and incredible hope. When talking about organ and tissue donation, STA encourages our team, as well as our media, community and advocate partners, to use language that honors everyone involved.

Donation is deeply personal, and the words used around the topic can greatly influence someone’s decision to register as an organ donor. All language should show respect and care for the process. STA recommends the following guide when discussing organ and tissue donation.

INSTEAD OF THIS	USE THIS
“harvest” organs	“recover” or “donate” organs
“procure” or “procuring” organs	“recover” or “recovering” organs
“cadaver” donor or donation	“deceased” donor or donation
“did a donation”	“completed a donation”
“be a donor” or “register to donate”	“register your decision” to donate
“sacrificed”	“gave the gift of life” or “made the decision to donate”
“non-heart beating donation”	“donation after cardiac death”
“progressing to brain death”	“deteriorating to brain death”
“declare brain death”	“determine brain death”
“donated body parts”	“donated organs and tissues”
“life” support	“mechanical” or “ventilator” support
“tissue processor”	“tissue preparation facility”
“processed tissue”	“prepared tissue”

For more resources and information about organ and tissue donation, visit [organ.org/newsroom](https://www.organ.org/newsroom).