



Words Matter: Tips for Sensitive Language

The terms and phrases we use when talking about donation matter. Using the correct words helps communicate respect for the donor, donor families and the decision to give the ultimate gift through organ, eye and tissue donation.

Please use:

Instead of:

Recover organs

Harvest or procure organs

Recovery or donation of organs

This appropriately conveys that organ recovery is a respectful surgical procedure and honors the person giving the gift.

Harvesting or procuring organs

Deceased donor or donation

Organs are generously gifted from one person to another; the term cadaver is impersonal and disrespectful to the person giving the gift.

Cadaver or cadaveric donor

Mechanical or ventilated support

Organs are kept functioning after death for donation to occur; using the term life support incorrectly implies that the donor is still living.

Life support

Determine brain death

Death is determined by medical professionals independent of donation.

Declare brain death

Organs and tissues

Organs and tissues are both anatomically correct and respects the humanity of the gift.

Body parts

For questions or more information, contact us at info@donatelifetexas.org.