

Rhoi Organau Cymru

Organ Donation Wales



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

# Organ Donation in Wales

## Your options are:

I want to be  
an organ donor

**Opt in**

Register  
a decision  
to be an  
organ donor.

**Do nothing**

You have no objection  
to becoming an organ  
donor. Your consent  
may be deemed.

I don't want to be  
an organ donor

**Opt out**

Register a  
decision  
not to be an  
organ donor.

**Whatever you decide - tell your family**

**To register your decision or find out more:**

**Visit: [OrganDonationWales.org](http://OrganDonationWales.org) or**

**Call: 0300 123 23 23.**

(Calls to this phone line will be answered by the  
NHS Blood and Transplant Service)

 [OrganDonationWales](https://www.facebook.com/OrganDonationWales)

 [OrgDonationCYM](https://twitter.com/OrgDonationCYM)

## What is organ donation?

Lots of people in Wales and the UK are waiting for a new organ as their own have stopped working properly and they need an organ transplant.

When we die we might be able to give our organs to help someone who needs a transplant. Transplants can save or transform the lives of other people.

## The organ donation system in Wales

The organ donation system in Wales makes it easier for people to become donors. You can register your decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register, tell family your decision or choose to do nothing. If you choose to do nothing, you will be treated as having no objection to becoming an organ donor and your consent will be deemed. Telling your family your decision helps them if you die in a way where donation is an option. When approached, your family will know your organ donation decision and be able to honour that decision.

## Do I need to make a choice?

No. But if you don't register a decision (opt in or out) on the NHS Organ Donor Register or tell your family, then you will be treated as having no objection to being a donor. This is known as deemed consent.

You can 'appoint a representative' if you wish. This means that you can ask a friend, family member or religious leader to make the decision for you. To find out how to do this, visit: [OrganDonationWales.org](http://OrganDonationWales.org)

**"I'm so glad Mam and I talked about organ donation.**

**When she died I knew she wanted to donate."**



## Who does organ donation system apply to?

Everyone. The NHS Organ Donor Register is checked for everyone who dies and could donate their organs. If no registration is found, family will be approached, to find out if the person had made an organ donation decision. If no decision has been made and the person is:

- over 18 **and**
- has chosen to live in Wales for over 12 months **and**
- died in Wales **and**
- capable of understanding organ donation,

then their consent will be deemed and they will become an organ donor.

It may affect students who have been living and studying in Wales. There is more information on who it doesn't apply to at [OrganDonationWales.org](http://OrganDonationWales.org)

## Are families still involved?

Yes, if it became possible for you to donate, your family or friends would always be involved. Families or friends need to answer important questions about your medical history and confirm that you normally lived in Wales. If they knew your organ donation decision they would be able to tell the healthcare professionals. If family or appointed representatives cannot be contacted, donation would not go ahead.

## Do I need to do anything if I have registered my decision on the NHS Organ Donor Register?

Yes, if you have already registered your decision, you need to tell your family and friends so that they're aware of your decision.

You can change your decision at any time on our website or by calling the helpline.

## Find out more

Visit: [OrganDonationWales.org](http://OrganDonationWales.org)

**"I'll need new lungs one day. It's a no-brainer – become an organ donor"**

