

Hindu Dharma and organ donation



Organ and tissue donation is an essential part of the Hindu way of life, as guided by the Vedas.

In Hinduism, the principle of helping and saving

the lives of others is revered; hence, organ and tissue donation is in keeping with these beliefs.

“As the former director of the kidney program at the Ottawa Civic Hospital, and also the former director of the organ donation and retrieval program in 23 hospitals in Eastern Ontario, I can truly say that organ donation provides the gift of life for patients with chronic kidney disease and often eliminates the need for dialysis. I am glad to know that there are no barriers to organ donation in our Hindu scriptures. My family and I have consented to be organ donors.

Let us all join in this noble cause.”

*Dr. Shiv Jindal, President of the Hindu Temple of Ottawa-Carleton, MD, FRCP(C)
Division of Nephrology, University of Ottawa*

“...it is said that the soul is invisible...knowing this you should not grieve for the body.”

Bhagavad Gita, Chapter 2:25

“Of all the things that it is possible to donate, to donate your own body is infinitely more worthwhile.”

The Manusmruti

“As long as you have attachment to the body and attachment to objects, fear and suffering will be with you. Therefore, Krishna told Arjuna to develop his discrimination and rid himself of body consciousness. He told him that once he was free of body consciousness he would be able to develop integral vision.”

Sri Sathya Sai Baba

Register to save lives.

Organ and tissue donor registration is the only secure and guaranteed way to make your decision to save lives be known.

A signed donor card is not recorded in the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's database and may not be available when needed.

Registering is EASY

1. You can register at BeADonor.ca
2. You can visit your local ServiceOntario centre
3. Download the Gift of Life consent form

Trillium Gift of Life Network is the Government of Ontario agency responsible for delivering and coordinating organ and tissue donation and transplantation services across the province, as well as for planning, promoting and supporting all health care and allied professionals, advocates and the Ontario public in fulfilling their shared and integrated responsibilities in saving the lives of Ontarians waiting for a life-saving transplant.



Trillium
Gift of Life
Network

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Toronto, ON M5G 2C9

Toll-Free: 1-800-263-2833

E-mail: infoLine@ontariohealth.ca

Website: BeADonor.ca

Hinduism and Organ Donation



“SERVICE TO MANKIND IS THE BEST FORM OF WORSHIP” - Lord Krishna

Dear Devotees



Lord Krishna states that “service to mankind is the best form of worship.” Serving mankind and helping others is an essential part of life for us. A true act of service is giving someone the chance to live a healthy life by donating organs and tissues.

There is no religious law prohibiting Hindus from donating their organs and tissues. Organ and tissue donation decisions are left to individual choice. It is my hope that your belief in karma and the philosophy of helping others, will compel you to reflect positively on organ donation and transplantation.

It is important to note that there are many references to support the concept of organ donation in Hindu scriptures. One aspect to consider is that in the list of ten Niyamas, Daan is third. This act of selfless giving is significant when you choose to save a person’s life by donating organs and tissues. Dharma imparts a strong moral imperative to act in a righteous manner that will benefit others. Every act or intention should be dharmik, and therefore organ donation is a right decision because it results in saving the lives of others.

Let us come together and show our compassion for those in need. Let’s say “YES” to organ and tissue donation and as a result more lives will be saved!

Sincerely, Dr. Budhendraauth Doobay
*Chairman of the Board & Religious Advisor
Voice of the Vedas Cultural Sabha Inc.*



Why give an organ?



“I am so proud of my husband, Nadarajah (Sri), who as an organ donor saved many lives. He was a charitable, giving and compassionate person, even in his death.”

Mrs. Ambigadevy Nadarajah

Registering for organ and tissue donation makes a difference.

One organ donor can save up to eight lives and enhance as many as 75 more.

A few facts...

- Organs and tissues that can be donated after death include the heart, liver, kidneys, pancreas, lungs, small bowel, corneas, heart valves, bone and skin.
- Everyone has the potential to be a donor regardless of age, sexual orientation or health status.
- Studies show that donating the organs and tissues of a loved one who has died can provide immediate comfort and long-lasting consolation to family members in their grief.
- The first and foremost duty of healthcare professionals is to save a life. Only when a life cannot be saved does organ and tissue donation become an option.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Does Hinduism support organ and tissue donation?

A: There are no references to organ and tissue donation in Hindu scriptures. Hindu beliefs and principles support organ and tissue donation. The philosophy of Yajna, which promotes giving to others, is one of the highest principles of the Vedas. A true act of Yajna would be giving someone the gift of life by donating organs and tissues.

Q: Does organ donation affect Hindu funeral and burial practices?

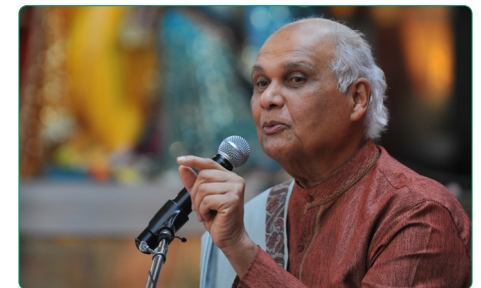
A: The body is treated with the utmost respect during the organ and tissue donation process. The family will be able to hold traditional Hindu funeral practices after the donation process has occurred.

Q: Does organ donation have an impact on the soul going to the next life?

A: Life after death is a strong belief for Hindus and is an ongoing process of rebirth. The law of karma decides which way the soul will go in the next life.

Q: How does the Hindu perspective on death impact organ and donation?

A: Most Hindus believe that when the soul has departed at the time of death, the body is then separated from its earthly purpose. The body is not re-incarnated and there is nothing to impede the process of donating organs and tissues at the time of death.



Dr. Doobay speaks about the importance of organ and tissue donation at the Vishnu Mandir.