



# IRISH KIDNEY ASSOCIATION CLG

FOUNDED IN 1978

**Registered office:** Donor House, Block 43A, Park West, Dublin D12 P5V6, Ireland.

**Phone:** +353 1 620 5306 **Email:** [info@ika.ie](mailto:info@ika.ie) **Web:** [www.ika.ie](http://www.ika.ie)

## Organ Donor Awareness Week 2025:

### Campaign Particulars:

- Message: "Don't Leave your Loved Ones in Doubt"
- Website: [www.ika.ie/donorweek](http://www.ika.ie/donorweek)
- Social Media: #LeaveNoDoubt #ShareYourWishes #DonorWeek25
- Partners: An Post, several pharmacy chains, Healthy Ireland at your Library, Clear Channel and others

### The numbers:

- There are approximately 600 people currently active on the organ transplant waiting list - 500 of them awaiting a kidney transplant.
- Year end 2024: 2,823 people with a functioning kidney transplant and 2,581 people on dialysis

### The following organs can be donated:

- Kidney, liver, Lungs, Heart and pancreas

### Criteria for Organ Donation:

- Typically, a person must be in an Intensive Care Unit on a life support machine when they are declared brain stem dead
- It is only approximately 1-2% of deaths every year where organ donation is a possibility
- Family consent is necessary for organ retrieval to go ahead

### The Role of the Organ Donor Card:

- First introduced by the Irish Kidney Association in 1978, the purpose of the organ donor card is to offer a way of starting a family conversation about organ donation – hence the space for a next of kin signature

### Practical Implications:

- Donating your organs does not change how your body looks or delay your funeral arrangements. There will be no visible signs of organ donation if you want to have an open casket (coffin) funeral.

### Bringing the Organ Donation Conversation into your community

- Local shops, Credit Unions, Schools, Colleges, etc. can support the campaign by having Organ Donor Cards available, downloading posters from the IKA website ([www.ika.ie/donorweek](http://www.ika.ie/donorweek)) supporting the Irish Kidney Association social media campaign

**Patron:** Michael D. Higgins, *President of Ireland*

**Directors:** V. Brady, J. Burke, L. Buttle, C. Charles, S. Fitzgerald, E. Flood, M. Fowley, J. Gavan, D. Heslin, M. Horan, C. Kinahan, A. Kirwan, E. Madden, J. McDermott, E. Moore, F. Moynihan, L. O'Sullivan, P. O'Sullivan, M. Quigley.



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## Impact of the Human Tissue Act:

The Human Tissue Act 2024 includes provision for organ donation and transplantation and the relevant section of the legislation (Part 2: Transplantation) is expected to be commenced in the coming weeks. Below are some key quotes from the legislation that are relevant to the public's engagement with Organ Donation.

### Message to the Public:

- With the commencement of the legislation, families will retain the final approval for organ donation to go ahead
- Letting your loved ones know your wishes ensures that you are empowering them to act on your behalf
- If you would rather not be considered a potential organ donor there will be a HSE managed Opt-out register where you can record your details
- When a potential organ donor is identified, the opt-out register will be consulted first. If the person's details are recorded there then no further action will be taken. If their details are not there then consent is 'deemed' but the health care professionals must satisfy themselves that the designated family member does not have objection.

### Taking directly from the legislation:

#### **Deemed Consent** and the introduction of an 'opt-out' Register

*"a person shall be deemed to consent to the donation, after his or her death, of his or her relevant organs (in this Act referred to as "deemed consent") where he or she has not registered his or her objection to such organ donation on the Register"*

#### **Role of the Family:**

To confirm that they do not have any objection to the donation of their loved one's organs

*"Where a person has not registered his or her objection to the donation of his or her relevant organs in accordance with [section 33](#), a registered medical practitioner who, after the person's death proposes to remove a relevant organ from that person for the purposes of transplantation shall satisfy himself or herself that the designated family member of the person has confirmed that he or she does not have any objection to the donation of the relevant organ."*

For further information, please encourage people to visit the Irish Kidney Association website or contact Donor House.