

## Registering is EASY!

Anyone 16 years of age with an Ontario health card can register:

- Online at **BeADonor.ca**
- In person at any **ServiceOntario** centre, or
- By mailing the Gift of Life consent form

Trillium Gift of Life Network (TGLN) is the Government of Ontario agency responsible for planning, promoting, coordinating and supporting organ and tissue donation and transplantation across the province and for continually improving the system so that more lives can be saved.

To register or learn more,  
visit **BeADonor.ca**  
or call 1-800-263-2833

**beadonor.ca**



Trillium  
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Trillium Gift of Life Network would like to thank the following organizations for providing direction to produce this brochure.



**Canadian Association of Jews and Muslims**  
Bringing members of the Jewish and Muslim communities in Canada closer together



**Islamic Institute of Toronto**  
Education for Virtuous Living



# Islam and Organ Donation

# Islam and organ donation

Organ donation is the gift of an organ to help another person who needs a transplant. One organ donor can save up to 8 lives. Organ transplantation is a very successful treatment for patients with end stage organ failure. However, it does rely on human compassion.

## Is organ donation permissible in Islam?

In the past two decades, Muslim scholars from around the world have convened to discuss the permissibility of organ donation. The majority of shariah councils have concluded that organ donation is allowed, and indeed recommended, in Islam. It is our hope that the information presented here will motivate you to make an informed decision about becoming a registered organ donor.

## The opinion of permissibility:

**Most scholars hold the opinion that organ donation is permissible given the following conditions<sup>1</sup>:**

- 1. The donor is not harmed by the donation.**
- 2. The recipient requires the organ in order to live or in order to perform an essential function.**
- 3. The donor's body, whether living or dead, is respected and treated with dignity.**
- 4. The donor gives his or her organs freely.**
- 5. The organs are not bought or sold.**

<sup>1</sup> Based on the verdict of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, Saudi Arabia, February 1988

This opinion is based on the well-established legal principle, *necessities overrule prohibitions*. They also point to the Qur'anic verse: "Whoever saves a life of one person it would be as if they saved the life of all mankind." (5:32)

The following are some of the local and international institutions which have issued legal opinions (fatwas) for the permissibility of organ donation in Islam:

- The Canadian Council of Imams
- The International Islamic Fiqh Academy of the Muslim World League, which comprises of scholars from around the world
- The Fiqh Academy of the Organization of Islamic Conference (representing all Muslim countries)
- Al Azhar University, Egypt
- Saudi Arabia's Council of Senior Ulema (Islamic scholars)
- The International Islamic Conference held in Malaysia
- Fatwa Committees in Jordan, Kuwait, Egypt and Algeria.

## The reality...

Every three days, one person in Ontario dies while waiting for an organ transplant. Unfortunately, there are many Muslims waiting for transplants, but few Muslims are registered organ donors. Please consider this reality. Consult a scholar or someone you trust to make an informed decision and help save lives by registering your consent to donate your organs after death.

As part of your Islamic tradition, you may also want to consider adding organ donation to the list of items in your *Wasiya* (Islamic will), which usually informs relatives about your wishes and recommendations.

## Registering "Yes" makes a difference.

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

## A few facts from Trillium Gift of Life Network

- The first and foremost duty of health care professionals is to save a life. Only when a life cannot be saved and after death has been declared by two physicians, organ donation can occur with family consent.
- Your registered donation decision is confidential and will only be disclosed at the end of life for the purpose of sharing your decision with your family.
- You can change or withdraw your consent to donate at any time.
- Donating the organs and tissues of a loved one who has died can provide comfort and consolation to family members in grief.
- The removal of organs and tissues is done with the utmost care and greatest respect.
- Organ and tissue donation should not impact funeral arrangements.
- Everyone has the potential to be an organ and/or tissue donor regardless of advanced age or health status.