

# Making a declaration on organ and tissue donation

You can make a declaration in the organ donation register as to whether you agree or disagree with organ and tissue donation.

## Competent Department

- [Bundesinstitut für Arzneimittel und Medizinprodukte \(BfArM\)](#)

## Basic information

The organ donation register is a central electronic register in which you can enter your decision for or against organ and tissue donation. The register offers the opportunity to record your decision in a legally binding manner.

In most cases, the question of organ and tissue donation arises very suddenly - for example after a serious accident, a brain haemorrhage or a stroke. If the deceased person has not documented their decision beforehand, relatives must decide according to the deceased person's known or presumed wishes. Such a situation can be emotionally stressful and overwhelming for relatives.

A decision recorded in the organ donation register provides clarity and security and safeguards your right to self-determination. For additional security, you should also inform your next of kin about your decision and its documentation.

In addition to the possibility of deciding for or against organ and tissue donation, you also have other options:

- You can decide to donate only certain organs and tissues or
- opt for donation but exclude certain organs and tissues, and
- transfer your decision to a person designated by you.

The entry is voluntary and free of charge. You can change or delete it at any time. The organ donation register is managed by the Federal Institute for Drugs and Medical Devices (BfArM), which ensures the security of your data.

Organ procurement hospitals are able to retrieve your stored declaration. By the beginning of 2025 at the latest, all officially approved tissue establishments will also be connected to

the register. During this transitional period, you should also document your decision in writing, for example in an organ donor card or in a living will.

Even after the introduction of the organ donation register in 2024, a completed organ donor card, a living will or other written declarations will remain valid. If there are several declarations, your final decision will always apply.

## Requirements

- You must be at least 16 years old.

## What documents do I need?

- Electronic ID document for identification
  - Identity card with online ID function or
  - Electronic residence permit or
  - eID card for citizens of the European Union and the European Economic Area

## Procedure

You can register online in the organ donation register:

- Call up the organ donation register and select "Make a declaration".
- You must identify yourself. You have the following options:
  - On your smartphone: You identify yourself using the ID card app, which reads your electronic ID document.
  - On the computer: You identify yourself using the ID app and a smartphone or card reader that you connect to the computer. The smartphone with AusweisApp or the card reader reads your electronic ID document.
- After identification, you enter your e-mail address and insurance number.
- You then enter your decision to donate organs and tissue and send the declaration.
- You will receive an e-mail with a seven-digit declaration ID. Keep this declaration ID in a safe place, as you can use it to access, change and delete your declaration.
- You can also download the declaration as a PDF file. The declaration ID is also stored in this file.

## Legal bases

- [§2a Gesetz über die Spende, Entnahme und Übertragung von Organen und Geweben \(Transplantationsgesetz - TPG\)](#)

## More information

There are no indications or special features.

## What are the costs?

There are no costs.