

Deciding to Write to **Transplant Recipients**

Each family is different and this is a very personal decision. Sometimes donor families choose to write to transplant recipients and their families to share information about themselves and their loved ones. For some donor families, this sharing helps with the grieving process. The most important thing is that your family does what is best for you.

Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network will assist with facilitating written correspondence between donor families and recipients. All correspondence is completely anonymous and identities are kept confidential. If both the donor family and the transplant recipient decide that they want to be in direct contact, then the confidential information can be shared.



A Donate Life Organization

Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network
Corporate Woods of Brighton
Building 30 . Suite 220
Rochester . NY . 14623

(585) 272 . 4930

www.donorrecovery.org

A GUIDE TO

Writing to *Transplant Recipients* *& Their Families*



FINGER LAKES
DONOR RECOVERY
NETWORK

If you would like to write to the recipients of your loved one's organs, you may send a greeting card, note, or a letter. Outlined below is suggested information you may wish to include.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- °Your loved one's first name only
- °Your loved one's interests or hobbies
- °Family composition and/or important relationships (please, no last names)
- °Since the religion of the recipient is unknown, please consider this if you are including religious comments.

CLOSING YOUR CORRESPONDENCE

- °Sign your first name only
- °Do NOT reveal the city or town that you live in, your address, phone number or e-mail address

MAILING YOUR CORRESPONDENCE

- °Place your card or letter in an unsealed envelope
- °On a separate piece of paper include your full name, your loved one's name and the date of donation
- °Place and send these items in another envelope addressed to:

Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network
Corporate Woods of Brighton
Building 30, Suite 220
Rochester, NY 14623

HANDLING YOUR CORRESPONDENCE

- °Our Family Services Coordinator will review your correspondence to ensure its confidentiality, removing any identifying information
- °The correspondence will then be forwarded to the appropriate transplant center and a Transplant Coordinator will send your correspondence to the recipient
- °It may take a few weeks after you have mailed your correspondence for the transplant recipient to receive

Will I hear from the recipients?

You may or may not hear from your loved one's recipients. While many recipients are very interested in receiving correspondence from the donor family, others may be overwhelmed with emotion and have difficulty expressing their gratitude.

Some recipients, though grateful for the donation, prefer not to write to their donor family. They may not be able to express their feelings. Additionally, it is important to remember that some donor families and some recipients prefer to remain private. It may take several months or even years before a recipient feels comfortable writing to their donor family.

Who do I call for help or information?

Call the Family Services Coordinator at Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network if you need help or more information on how to write to recipients.