

# Talking About Organ, Eye, and Tissue Donation: LANGUAGE AND TERMINOLOGY

We respectfully ask that anyone writing about or discussing the organ, eye, and tissue donation process use language that is sensitive, accurate, and respectful.

**At The Living Legacy Foundation of Maryland, we do not use words like “harvest” or “cadaver” when discussing organ, eye, and tissue donation. Instead, we use the words “recover,” “donation,” or “deceased donor,” which better reflect the respect with which the donation process is handled.**

*For example:*

“The organs that were **recovered** from the **deceased donor** went on to save...”

“The **donated organs** are then transplanted...”

“The tissues that the transplant recipient received from the **deceased donor**...”

**Additionally, the term “life support” is inaccurate and confusing when used in relation to a brain-dead patient. The recommended phrasing is that a donor’s body is kept on “mechanical support,” a ventilator, or life-sustaining therapies until the time of donation.**

If you have questions regarding appropriate language regarding organ, eye, and tissue donation, please don’t hesitate to reach out and ask! Email us at [publicrelations@thellf.org](mailto:publicrelations@thellf.org).