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## Organ Donation

**MAKING YOUR  
WISHES KNOWN**

  
éducaloi

INFORMATION EMPOWERS

## Setting the Scene

Do you want to donate an organ for transplant? Or perhaps your body to science?

This pamphlet explains how to do this.

**This pamphlet is up to date to March 29, 2016.**

It has general information only. If you need legal advice on a specific situation, consult a lawyer or notary.

Learn more at [educaloi.qc.ca](https://educaloi.qc.ca):

- medical decisions
- protection mandates
- wills
- and much more ...

To order print documents, see the Contact Us section of our website.

## When?

This pamphlet only deals with donations after death.

To learn more about donating an organ, tissue or blood while you are alive, see Éducaloi's website articles.

## Transplant vs. Teaching and Research

You can donate for transplant or for teaching and research.

### Transplant

This means your organs and tissues are put into another person's body.

Organs that can be used include the kidneys, liver, lungs, heart, pancreas and intestines.

Tissues that can be used include skin, heart valves, corneas of the eye, tendons and bone.

### Teaching and Research

This means your body goes to an educational institution for teaching and research.

After study on the body is finished, it can be recovered for cremation or burial.

## How?

How can you say you want to donate?

You can do it orally in front of two witnesses, but then it is hard for people to check what your wishes were.

Here are ways that make your wishes easier to check:

### Donation for Transplant

1. Sign the sticker you get from the government each time you renew your health insurance (medicare) card and put the sticker on the back of your card.

You can also get the sticker from health institutions and from the website [signezdon.gouv.qc.ca](http://signezdon.gouv.qc.ca).

2. Use a form from the Régie de l'assurance maladie du Québec (health insurance board). The easiest way to get it is to call the Régie. It is also sent to you when your medicare card is up for renewal.

#### Régie de l'assurance maladie

Quebec City: 418-646-4636

Montreal: 514-864-3411

Elsewhere in Quebec: 1-800-561-9749

Your form will go into a government registry (list) that medical staff can check.

3. Put your wishes in a will or protection mandate made by a notary. The notary can put these documents in a registry kept by the Chambre des notaires (Quebec order of notaries). Medical staff can check this registry.

A notary can also simply put your wishes in the registry without doing a will or mandate.

For more on protection mandates, see Éducaloi's website or print guides.

### Donation for Teaching and Research

1. Fill out a card provided by the government. Get it from the website [sante.gouv.qc.ca](http://sante.gouv.qc.ca). Once on the site, go to Assistance Measures and Programs, then D: Donating Your Body to Science.

Keep the card with your important identification cards, like your medicare card.

2. Put your wishes in a will or protection mandate made by a notary. The notary can then put these documents in a registry kept by the Chambre des notaires (Quebec order of notaries). Medical staff can check this registry.

A notary can also simply put your wishes in the registry without doing a will or mandate.

## Must Be Followed

Your wishes must be respected unless there is a very good reason not to.

Note that, in some cases, your organs, tissues or body can't be used. This might be the case, for example, if the organs and tissues are not healthy enough, or if you died from an infectious disease (hepatitis C, for example).

## If You Don't Make Your Wishes Known

At death, the person allowed by law to make medical decisions for you can give permission for a donation. Depending on your situation, this could be a spouse or partner, other relative, or other person close to you.

## Speak to People About It

You've made your wishes known in one of the ways listed earlier? It's still important to speak to people close to you. Then, at your death, they can make sure your wishes are respected.

