



## WRITING TO TRANSPLANT RECIPIENTS

A simple guide for the family members of organ and/or tissue donors

### Deciding to write

The decision to write to a cornea recipient is a very personal one. As a family member of a donor, you may or may not decide to write a note to the transplant recipients. It is your personal choice. You may not want to write at this time, but you may decide a few months or years from now that you would like to do so. There is no time limit for sending a letter.

### Suggestions

- Write information you feel comfortable sharing about you, your loved one, and other family members. This may include occupation, hobbies or interests, perhaps special things your loved one liked to do or information about your family.
- You may include first names of yourself, your loved one and other family members, the state in which you reside and photographs.
- Sign only your first name.
- Keep identities anonymous and confidential...avoid including any last names, street addresses, city names, phone numbers, specific names of work (employer), or names of hospitals or physicians.
- You may feel more comfortable sending a card during the holidays, or a "Thinking of You" card if you choose not to write a long letter.

### Sending the letter or card

- Place the card or letter in an unsealed envelope. If the envelope is sealed, the Indiana Donor Network Aftercare Coordinator will need permission to open it and will not be able to forward otherwise.
- Include a separate sheet of paper with your full name, and the name and date of death of your loved one.
- Mail to Indiana Donor Network, 3760 Guion Road, Indianapolis, IN 46222, or you may email your correspondence to Courtney Tillotta at [aftercare@INDonorNetwork.org](mailto:aftercare@INDonorNetwork.org).

### Forwarding your letter or card

Letters and cards are reviewed to ensure confidentiality. If identifying information is given (see suggestions), the Indiana Donor Network Aftercare Coordinator will contact you to ask permission to edit the letter or card. We will then forward your correspondence to the transplant coordinator at the facility where the transplant took place. They will send your letter or card to the recipient. This process may take a few weeks.

Some recipients may send a letter or card to you in response to your correspondence. Other recipients may choose not to write to you at this time-this is their personal decision. Many transplant recipients have said they feel overwhelmed with emotion and have difficulty expressing their gratitude in writing.

If Indiana Donor Network receives correspondence for your family from a recipient, the Indiana Donor Network Aftercare Coordinator will contact you to ensure the delivery of the correspondence.

### **Sample phrases to jump-start your letter**

- I find myself writing to you. I do not want to intrude in your life, but I can't help wondering about you. I would appreciate it if you would write and tell more about yourself.
- I think of my daughter's recipients often. Please write and let us know how you are doing.
- I waited for you to write and finally decided that I would write to you. I want to know how you are feeling and learn something about you. I will wait to hear from you.
- Dear recipients, we would love to hear from all of you as it helps to know that some good came out of our tragedy.

### **For more information:**

If you have any question or concerns about the information outlined in this guide, please contact us.

Indiana Donor Network  
Aftercare Coordinator  
3760 Guion Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46222  
[317.685.0389](tel:317.685.0389)  
TOLL-FREE [888.275.4676](tel:888.275.4676)

This guide has been adapted from: National Donor Family Council  
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