

Writing to Transplant Recipients



The decision to write to transplant recipients is a personal one.

Sometimes, families who donate choose to write to transplant recipients and their families, to share information about themselves and their loved one. For some families, this sharing with the transplant recipient helps them in their grieving process. Whether or not you decide to write to a transplant recipient is your choice.

Will I hear from the transplant recipient?

You may or may not receive a response. Many transplant recipients have said that they are overwhelmed with emotion and have difficulty expressing their gratitude in words. Others may take several months or even years before they feel comfortable writing.

If you would like to write to a transplant recipient, you may send a greeting card or a letter. Here is some information you may choose to include.

Provide general information about your loved one

- First name only
- Job or occupation
- Hobbies or interests
- Family situation such as children, or grandchildren
(do not include last name)

Since the religion of the transplant recipient's family is unknown, please consider this if you are including religious comments. Do not give the name of the hospital.

Closing your card or letter

- Sign your first name only.
- Do not give your address or phone number.

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Mailing your card or letter

1. Place it in an unsealed envelope
2. Include in the envelope on a separate piece of paper:
 - Your full name
 - Your loved one's full name
 - Date of donation
3. Mail to:
Legacy of Life Hawai'i
405 North Kuakini Street, Suite 810
Honolulu, HI 96817
Attn: Felicia

A staff member at Legacy of Life Hawai'i will review your card or letter to ensure confidentiality. It will then be forwarded to the transplant center that will then send it to the recipient.

Please allow extra time for this process. It may take a few weeks after you've mailed it for the transplant recipient to receive it.

Keep in mind that there may be several transplant recipients who benefited from your loved one's gifts. You may choose to send several copies of your letter, or you can allow us to make photocopies to be sent to each of the recipients.

Can we meet the transplant recipients?

Yes. These meetings are rare, but they do occur. If both the recipient and donor family agree to meet, Legacy of Life Hawai'i can arrange a private meeting. This generally occurs after both parties have exchanged letters a few times and expressed in writing their wishes to meet each other.

If you need further information about writing to transplant recipients, please contact Felicia:

Call (808) 599-7630, or
(877) 855-0603 toll free from neighbor islands

Email Fwellswilliams@legacyoflifeHawaii.org

Legacy of Life Hawai'i is the nonprofit organization, selected by the federal government, to manage all non-living organ and tissue donations in Hawai'i.



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