

Here are some guidelines and sample letters to help you when you're writing a thank you letter to a donor's family.

## Writing a thank you letter to a donor's family

### What to put in the letter

- Start your letter with "Dear Donor Family".
- Thank the family for their gift.
- Tell them about your illness and how you are doing since your transplant.
- Tell a little about your family, but do not include any names.
- Briefly describe any of your hobbies or special interests.
- Share any important events that have happened in your life since your transplant, for example any birthdays, births or graduations.
- Carefully consider whether to include religious comments. You do not know about the donor family's religious views, if any.



### Signing the letter

- Sign your card or letter "The recipient" only. Never include your first or last name.

### Important!

Do not include any other information that could help the donor's family identify you, such as:

- your home address
- your phone number
- the name of your school
- the hospital or transplant centre where you received your new organ.



## Sample thank you letters to a donor's family

Dear Donor Family,

Thank you for my new kidney. It is working great and I feel a lot better than before. I get to go to school all the time now instead of missing it to go to the hospital for dialysis.

I am sad that someone you loved died. I would like to thank you very much for caring enough to let me have this kidney.

The recipient

Dear Donor Family,

I would like to thank you for your generous gift. I will never be able to fully tell you how grateful I am. I've had my new kidney for one year and it has greatly improved my life.

Before my transplant, I had kidney disease for five years. I had to go on dialysis. I had little energy to do anything. My school work, social life and love for swimming all suffered. It was just hard getting out of bed. I had so many restrictions on my life that it was tough to be excited for the day.

All of that has changed since I received this gift from your family. I want you to know that this kidney has given me my life back.

My family and I will never forget the generosity you showed me during your time of pain.

The recipient