

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 liver. 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 when I was sick.

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

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 liver for one year and it has greatly improved my life.

Before my transplant, I had liver disease for five years. I kept getting sick. 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 you family. I want you to know that this liver 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