

# The Process for Brain Donation

THE DONOR'S FAMILY

STEP #

BRAIN SUPPORT NETWORK

## Before Brain Donation

**Makes first inquiry**  
to Brain Support Network (BSN).

1

**Reviews with family**  
general info about brain donation,  
requirements, and process.

**Provides intended donor location**  
and funeral home/cremation organization info once  
intended donor is on hospice or has been hospitalized.

2

**Investigates**  
the who, how, where, and current costs of brain donation,  
given donor location.  
*May take 30 minutes to several days.*

**Decides whether or not**  
to proceed with BSN making arrangements. If ready to  
proceed, provides donor name and family details to BSN.

3

**Prepares detailed instructions**  
for the family, pathology provider, funeral home/cremation  
organization, hospice (if any), and care facility (if any).  
*May take hours to several days depending on urgency.*

**Returns signed consent form**  
and other paperwork. Enjoys peace-of-mind that  
the arrangements are now complete.  
*May take 30 minutes to 2 hours to complete paperwork.*

4

**Shares detailed instructions**  
with all parties listed above, as needed.  
*Sometimes a body donation organization is included.*

**Supplies**  
(or orders from donor's physicians) specialist medical  
records and written family report to brain bank.

5

**Updates brain bank**  
on intended brain donation and status of  
medical records and written family report.

**Provides alert**  
when death is imminent (hours or day away) and re-confirms  
pathology provider fee so payment check is exact.

6

**Re-confirms**  
the arrangements, especially if significant  
time has passed.

**Notifies**  
Brain Support Network when end of life occurs.  
*Our deepest condolences on your loss.*

7

**Monitors all parties**  
to ensure brain donation is successful.  
Updates family.

## After Brain Donation

**If you have a memorial service,**  
BSN can prepare a personalized memorial flyer about your  
family member that shares the clinical diagnosis and value  
of brain donation.

8

**Updates the family**  
on the status of tissue shipment to the brain bank.  
Generally, tissue is shipped about 2 weeks after  
donor's passing.

**Receives**  
the neuropathology report from the brain bank  
about 3 months after the brain bank has the tissue, specialist  
records, and written family report.

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**If the family shares**  
the neuropathology report with BSN, we can  
share our comments and analysis on the report  
with your family.



**Brain Support Network**

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We have helped over 1000 families donate a loved one's brain. We can help your family too.