



Chart No: _____

Alabama Organ Center Writing to Recipients

I wonder how the recipient(s) are doing? How do I find out?

Contact between a donor family and a recipient family is limited by the Alabama Organ Center rules of confidentiality and privacy for all participants in the donation process. If both parties agree, written contact is accomplished by an exchange of letters through the Donor Family Liaison, who acts as a third party. All correspondence is anonymous and identities are confidential... SIGN ONLY YOUR FIRST NAME. Keep identities anonymous and confidential by not including any last names, street addresses, city names, phone numbers, names of hospitals, physicians and do not include your e-mail address. ALL LETTERS WILL BE SCREENED TO ENSURE CONFIDENTIALITY AND APPROPRIATENESS. If there is a concern with your letter, I will contact you; so please make sure I have your contact information available. If you wish to send a card, letter or picture; you may send it to the address below. Please, always write in pen.

What should I say?

Write about information you feel comfortable sharing about yourself and your loved one who donated their organ(s) and/or tissue. You can include information about other family members. Feel free to discuss your loved one's occupation, hobbies or special things your loved one liked to do. Recipients are genuinely interested in details about their donor. After all, this person has had a profound effect on their life.

Will the recipient(s) respond to my letter?

Recipients almost always appreciate the opportunity to hear from the donor family about their donor. However, some feel unable to express their emotional response adequately on paper. Many feel so indebted; they find words inadequate to express their gratitude. Therefore, there is no guarantee that you will receive a response. The timing of a reply will vary with individual circumstances. Please do not feel that your expression of interest is unwelcome. Your concern for these people who benefited from your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Since some of the recipients live a great distance away, please allow several weeks for the exchange of correspondence to occur.

Holidays are a very busy time for correspondence. PLEASE SEND ALL HOLIDAY MAIL ONE MONTH PRIOR TO THE HOLIDAY.

How do I mail my letter?

1. With your letter, on a **SEPARATE** sheet of paper include either the **CHART NUMBER ABOVE** or **THE DONOR'S NAME AND DATE OF DONATION. WITHOUT EITHER OF THESE, I CAN NOT IDENTIFY WHO YOUR RECIPIENTS ARE.**
2. Mail your letter with identifying information to:

Carrie Ellis, BA, MHS
Donor Family Liaison
Alabama Organ Center
500 22nd Street South, Suite 102
Birmingham, AL 35233

Form DO.02