

Sample Donor Outreach Letter

This is an example of a letter you could use to help get the word out that you are looking for a kidney donor. Feel free to change the wording and only include the contact information for the transplant hospital that applies to you.

Dear Family and Friends,

I'm writing to let you know about my medical situation and this is a difficult letter to write. My kidneys are failing and my doctors have recommended a kidney transplant as the best medical treatment. I have been told to try to find someone who may be willing to donate a kidney to me, so I am getting the word out in case someone may consider coming forward as a potential donor.

I want to be clear that I would only want a donor who does not feel any pressure to donate. If the idea of donation is not comfortable for you, I understand and respect that, and it won't affect our relationship in any way.

I know this is a very personal decision and there is a lot to consider. I've learned that kidney donors can live a normal and healthy life with just one kidney, and donors don't have to be related or be the same blood type in order to donate. Donors are carefully screened to make sure it is safe for them to donate and it is all done privately, by a separate donor team. It will all be confidential, and I will not know anything, unless the donor chooses to tell me.

If you would like to learn more about living donation, you can get more information from the donor nurse coordinator at St. Paul's Hospital (604 806 9027/ 1-877-922-9822; DonorNurse@providencehealth.bc.ca) or Vancouver General Hospital (ph: 604 875-5182/1-855-875-5182; kidneydonornurse@vch.ca) or on the BC Transplant website (www.transplant.bc.ca). All information is private and confidential and any potential donor can make the choice to back away from the process at any point.

If donation is not for you, that is fine, and please consider spreading the word in case someone else might want to find out more.

Thank you!