



The position of the Serbian Orthodox Church in specific regarding ORGAN and TISSUE DONATION is one in the same as that of the Orthodox Church in general.

The Orthodox Church fully respects the dignity and individual integrity of the human person as created by God in His image and likeness and endowed with free will. Therefore, the question of organ and tissue donation is left to the personal choice of the individual in consultation with their spiritual father and medical doctor.

That having been said, as permitted by the Orthodox Church, the individual is guided to understand the following points of reference when making their choice:

1. Firstly, if it is a "living donation" this can be made as long as the life of the donor is never brought to question. In such cases, it is permitted to donate duplicate organs, the removal of which would not be fatal, such as kidneys and the like; or even sections of skin that would not compromise the physical appearance of the individual donor.
2. Secondly, any "post-mortem donation" is possible, following full biological death. However, the Orthodox Church understands the body to be the temple of the Holy Spirit and requests that special care be given to the donor's body in the process of harvesting and in preparation for proper burial. The Orthodox Church does not condone cremation.

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Bishop of the Metropolitanate of Australia and New Zealand

The Serbian Orthodox Church

Position of the Episcopal Assembly of Canonical Bishop of Oceania:

<http://www.orthodox.net.au/en/episcopal-assembly/organ-and-tissue-donation>

Two Government flyers on Organ and Tissue donations:

<http://www.donatelife.gov.au/sites/default/files/Serbian%20DL%20Brochure%20270412.pdf>

<http://www.donatelife.gov.au/sites/default/files/Sharing%20our%20ideas%20-%20Serbian.pdf>

<http://www.donatelife.gov.au/sites/default/files/Sharing%20our%20ideas%20-%20Serbian-English.pdf>