

# 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.  
*Confirms if joint body donation is also desired.*

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.  
*May take 30 minutes to complete paperwork*

4

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

**Supplies neurological records**  
and written family report to brain bank.  
Enjoys peace-of-mind that arrangements are complete.  
*May take 1 to 2 hours to order/supply records.*

5

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

**Provides updates and alerts**  
when family member is on hospice and  
when end of life is imminent (hours/days away).

6

**Re-confirms**  
the arrangements with all parties,  
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

brainsupportnetwork.org • 1 650-814-0848

We have helped over 1,400 families donate a  
loved one's brain. We can help your family too.