

# Guidance for Direct Contact

All correspondence between donor families and recipients is anonymous, until both sides decide they would like to share identifying information. If the time comes when both parties are interested in sharing contact information, LifeCenter Northwest is available to act as a facilitator.

Our experience shows that the great majority of direct contact between donor families and recipients has an outcome that is positive, fulfilling and worthwhile. While potential problems are certainly rare, we want to ensure that all parties have considered the possible benefits and concerns.

## Things to Consider When Making Direct Contact

Based on conversations we've had regarding direct contact, here are a few things to consider:

- Sharing information can simplify the process of communication between donor families and recipients and not require LifeCenter Northwest or the transplant center to be involved.
- There is an opportunity to learn more about the donor family and recipient in a personal and direct way.
- The donor family or recipient may change their mind at any time and feel they are not yet ready to communicate directly on a regular basis or meet in person.
- Often donor families and recipients have an image of each other prior to meeting in person. Sometimes it turns out the way they imagined and sometimes their image is not the reality.
- Donor families and recipients may find that the differences in background and beliefs can present a challenge.

### Questions?

*Donor Family Aftercare*

(425) 201-6600

(877) 275-5269

[www.lcnw.org/families](http://www.lcnw.org/families)



Working together to save lives through organ and tissue donation.