

Suppliment tal-Gazzetta tal-Gvern ta' Malta, Nru. 19,589, 10 ta' Ġunju, 2016

Taqsim A

MALTA

ATT Nru XXVIII tal-2016

ATT maħruġ b'liġi mill-Parlament ta' Malta.

ATT biex jipprovdi għad-donazzjoni ta' organi, tessuti u ċelloli umani u trapjant f'Malta u sabiex jipprovdi għal affarijiet oħra li huma aċċillari jew konsegwenzjali għal dan.

ACT No. XXVIII of 2016

AN ACT enacted by the Parliament of Malta.

AN ACT to provide for human organs, tissues and cell donation and transplantation in Malta and to provide for matters ancillary or consequential thereto.

Nagħti l-kunsens tiegħi.

(L.S.)

**MARIE-LOUISE
COLEIRO PRECA
President**

10 ta' Ġunju, 2016

ATT Nru XXVIII tal-2016

Att biex jipprovdi għad-donazzjoni ta' organi, tessuti u ċelloli umani u trapjant f'Malta u sabiex jipprovdi għal affarijiet oħra li huma ancillari jew konsegwenzjali għal dan.

IL-PRESIDENT, bil-parir u l-kunsens tal-Kamra tad-Deputati, imlaqqgħa f'dan il-Parlament, u bl-awtorità tal-istess, harget b'ligi dan li ġej:-

1. (1) It-titolu fil-qosor ta' dan l-Att hu l-Att tal-2016 dwar id-Donazzjoni ta' Organi, Tessuti u Ċelloli Umani. Titolu fil-qosor u bidu fis-sehħ.

(2) Dan l-Att għandu jidhol fis-sehħ f'dik id-data li l-Ministru responsabbli għas-Sahha jista' jstabilixxi b'avviż fil-Gazzetta, u jistgħu jiġu stabbiliti dati differenti għal dispożizzjonijiet differenti u għal għanijiet differenti ta' dan l-Att.

2. (1) Dan l-Att għandu japplika mingħajr preġudizzju għall-Att dwar id-Demm Uman u t-Trapjanti u kull leġislazzjoni sussidjarja magħmula taht dak l-Att. Applikabilità. Kap. 483.

(2) Dan l-Att għandu japplika għal kull donazzjoni ta' organu, tessut u ċellola umana minn persuni li jkunu jirrisjedu f'Malta.

(3) Donazzjoni ta' organu, tessut u ċellola umana għal riċerka u donazzjoni ta' organi, tessuti u ċelloli għal użu awtologu kif ukoll donazzjoni ta' embrijuni jaqgħu barra mill-ambitu ta' dan l-Att.

3. F'dan l-Att, kemm-il darba r-rabta tal-kliem ma tkunx tehtieg xort'oħra: Tifsir.

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Kap.16. "awtorità tal-ġenituri" għandu jkollha l-istess tifsira kif mogħti lilha taħt il-Kodiċi Ċivili;

"ċelloli umani" tfisser ċelloli umani *diploid* individwali jew kollezzjoni ta' ċelloli umani *diploid* meta dawn ma jkunux mgħaqqdin flimkien b'xi għamla ta' tessut li jikkonnetti;

"ċentru ta' trapjant" tfisser stabbiliment ta' kura tas-saħha, grupp ta' nies jew taqsima fi sptar jew kull korp ieħor li jagħmel it-trapjant ta' organi, tessuti u ċelloli u li jkun awtorizzat jagħmel dawk it-trapjanti mis-Suprintendent;

"donatur" tfisser persuna li tagħti organu wieħed jew diversi organi, tessuti jew ċelloli, sew jekk id-donazzjoni ssir matul il-ħajja sew jekk issir wara l-mewt;

"donazzjoni" tfisser l-għoti ta' organi, tessuti jew ċelloli umani intizi għal trapjant uman;

"ġenitur" tfisser persuna li jkollha l-awtorità tal-ġenituri;

"koordinatur tad-donaturi" tfisser persuna li tikkonferma li d-donatur ikollu l-karatteristiċi mediċi li jiżguraw trapjant ta' suċċess;

"koordinatur tar-riċevitur" tfisser persuna li tiżgura li l-pazjent ikun fi stat xieraq li jaċċetta trapjant ta' suċċess;

"koordinatur tat-trapjant" tfisser professjonist fil-kura medika li jikkoordina l-attivitajiet li jkollhom x'jaqsmu mad-donazzjoni u t-trapjant. Koordinatur tat-trapjant jista' jkun kemm koordinatur tad-donaturi kif ukoll koordinatur tar-riċevitur;

Kap.16. "kustodju" tfisser persuna maħtura minn qorti sabiex tieħu deċiżjonijiet fir-rigward tas-sostenn, kura, edukazzjoni, saħha, jew benesseri ta' individwu u tinkludi persuna li tkun giet maħtura fil-kustodja ta' persuna skont il-Kodiċi Ċivili;

"il-Ministru" tfisser il-Ministru responsabbli għas-Saħha;

"organizzazzjoni ta' ksib" tfisser stabbiliment ta' kura tas-saħha, grupp ta' nies jew taqsima fi sptar, persuna, jew xi korp ieħor li jagħmel jew jikkoordina l-ksib ta' organi, u jkun awtorizzat jagħmel hekk mis-Suprintendent;

"organu uman" u "organu" tfisser parti differenzjata tal-ġisem tal-bniedem, iffurmata minn tessuti differenti, li tirritjeni l-istruttura u l-vaskularizzazzjoni tagħha, u li jkollha l-kapaċità li tiżviluppa funzjonijiet fiżjoloġiċi b'livell sinifikattiv ta' awtonomija:

Iżda parti minn organu titqies ukoll li tkun organu jekk il-funzjoni tagħha tkun ser tintuża għall-istess għan bħal dak tal-organu shiħ fil-ġisem tal-bniedem, filwaqt li tirritjeni l-htigiet ta' struttura u vaskularizzazzjoni;

"professjonist fil-kura medika" għandu jkollha l-istess tifsira kif mogħti lilha taht l-Att dwar il-Professjonijiet tas-Saħħa;

Kap. 464.

"reġistru" għandha tirreferi għar-Registru Nazzjonali tad-Donazzjoni tal-Organi u Tessuti Umani mfisser fl-artikolu 4;

"is-Suprintendent" tfisser is-Suprintendent tas-Saħħa Pubblika skont l-Att dwar is-Saħħa;

Kap. 528.

"tabib" tfisser professjonist tas-saħħa li jkun tabib jew konsulent li l-prattika tiegħu tkun ibbażata fuq osservazzjoni diretta u trattament ta' pazjent;

"tessut" tfisser il-partijiet kostitwenti kollha fil-ġisem tal-bniedem li huma ffurmati miċ-ċelloli;

"użu awtologu" tfisser ċelloli jew tessuti li jittiehdu minn fuq persuna sabiex jiġu applikati fuq l-istess persuna.

4. (1) Għandu jkun hemm Registru Nazzjonali tad-Donazzjoni tal-Organi u Tessuti Umani li għandu jinżamm mis-Suprintendent b'mod fiziku jew elettroniku hekk kif jista' jiddeciedi l-Ministru.

Registru
Nazzjonali tad-
Donazzjoni tal-
Organi u Tessuti
Umani.

(2) Ir-Registru għandu jirreġistra informazzjoni skont dan l-artikolu u dispozizzjonijiet oħra ta' dan l-Att u b'dak il-mod hekk kif jista' jiġi preskritt minn żmien għal żmien. Skont dan is-subartikolu, is-Suprintendent għandu jirreġistra fir-Registru dan li ġej:

(a) dettalji tal-persuni li jkunu qed jirrisjedu f'Malta li jkunu jixtiequ jagħtu l-organi, tessuti jew ċelloli tagħhom wara l-mewt tagħhom;

(b) dettalji tal-persuni li jkunu qed jirrisjedu f'Malta li espressament jiddikjaraw li ma jkunux jixtiequ jagħtu l-organi, tessuti jew ċelloli tagħhom wara l-mewt tagħhom;

(ċ) kull organu, tessut u ċellola partikolari li persuna tiddeciedi li tagħti; u

(d) kull organu, tessut u ċellola partikolari li persuna tiddeciedi li ma tkunx trid tagħti.

(3) Ir-Registru għandu jkun l-uniku registru tal-organi, tessuti

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u ċelloli li jkollu validità legali għall-finijiet ta' donazzjoni taht dan l-Att.

Reġistrazzjoni u
rwol tas-
Suprintendent.

5. (1) Is-Suprintendent għandu jirreġistra biss persuna li titlob biex tkun donatur taht dan l-Att wara li jkun sodisfatt li l-imsemmija persuna:

(a) tkun għalqet l-età ta' sittax-il sena;

(b) ma tkunx qed tbatu minn xi mard mentali li jirrendi lilha inkapaċi li tiegħu hsieb tal-affarijiet tagħha stess;

(c) tkun għamlet hekk b'mod volontarju, bir-rieda hielsa tagħha stess;

(d) kellha informazzjoni adegwata dwar it-tifsira u l-konsegwenzi ta' reġistrazzjoni bħala donatur taht dan l-Att u tkun giet iċċertifikata taht l-artikolu 14.

(2) Is-Suprintendent għandu jemenda l-imsemmi Reġistru, kull meta fil-fehma tiegħu jkun mehtieg jew xieraq li jagħmel dan sabiex jagħti effett għad-dispożizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att, u b'mod partikolari sabiex jiżgura l-eżattezza tal-informazzjoni li tinsab fir-Reġistru, jew biex jagġorna, jew b'mod iehor jikkoreġi kull informazzjoni li tkun iddahhlet fir-Reġistru.

(3) Għandu jkun id-dmir tas-Suprintendent li jiżgura li l-ipproċessar tal-informazzjoni li tinsab fir-Reġistru jitwettaq b'konformità mal-Att dwar il-Protezzjoni u l-Privatezza tad-Data:

Kap. 440.

Izda għandu jkun hemm aċċess għall-informazzjoni, għall-finijiet ta' dan l-Att meta tkun qed issir donazzjoni potenzjali, biss sabiex tiddeċiedi jekk persuna tkunx donatur registrat jew persuna li tkun irregistrat l-intenzjoni tagħha li ma tkunx donatur.

Eliġibilità għar-
reġistrazzjoni.

6. (1) Kull persuna li tkun għalqet is-sittax-il sena tista' tirreġistra biex tagħti l-organi u, jew tessuti u, jew ċelloli tagħha. Ir-reġistrazzjoni għandha ssir b'dawk il-modi kif il-Ministru jista' jstabilixxi, b'regolamenti magħmulin taht dan l-Att. Ir-reġistrazzjonijiet kollha għandhom jiġu registrati fir-Reġistru.

(2) Persuna li tiddeċiedi li tagħti l-organi, tessuti jew ċelloli tagħha għandha tispeċifika liema organi, tessuti jew ċelloli tkun tixtieq tagħti u jekk tkunx tixtieq teskludi organi, tessuti jew ċelloli partikolari milli jiġu mogħtija.

Tnehhija tar-
reġistrazzjoni.

7. Persuna li tkun giet registrata bħala donatur taht dan l-Att għandu jkollha l-jedd li tiegħu lura d-deċizjoni li ssir donatur u li

tapplika biex titneħħa r-registrazzjoni mas-Suprintendent li għandu minnufih jirregistra din l-informazzjoni u jneħħi r-registrazzjoni tal-imsemmija persuna.

8. Persuna li tkun espressament iddikjarat li ma tkunx tixtieq tagħti l-organi, tessuti jew ċelloli tagħha tista' f'kull żmien wara dan tirregistra bhala donatur taħt dan l-Att.

Registrazzjoni wara d-deċiżjoni li ma tkunx donatur.

9. Wara l-mewt ta' minuri li, fiż-żmien tal-mewt, ikun għadu taħt is-sittax-il sena, il-ġenituri jew kustodji legali għandhom jiġu kkonsultati fir-rigward li ssir donazzjoni ta' organu, tessut jew ċellola.

Mewt ta' minuri taħt is-sittax-il sena.

10. (1) Il-qraba ta' persuna deceduta li ma tkunx donatur registrat jistgħu jiġu avvicinati minn koordinatur tat-trapjant jew xi tabib sabiex jiddikjaraw jekk jagħtux il-kunsens tagħhom biex issir donazzjoni:

Mewt ta' persuna mhux registrata.

Izda dan is-subartikolu m'għandux japplika meta l-mejjet ikun irregistra x-xewqa tiegħu li ma jkunx donatur.

(2) F'każ meta l-kunsens ikun ingħata taħt dan l-artikolu, id-donazzjoni għandha ssir u l-imsemmija persuna għandha titqies li kienet donatur registrat għall-finijiet ta' dan l-Att.

(3) F'każ meta ssir donazzjoni taħt dan l-artikolu, din għandha tiġi annotata mis-Suprintendent fir-Registru.

11. Minkejja li l-persuna deceduta setgħet kienet donatur registrat, tabib għandu jkollu d-dritt li jiddeċiedi li l-oġġett tal-organu jew tessut tad-donazzjoni ma jkunx tajjeb jew ma jkunx xieraq għat-trapjant.

Organu mhux tajjeb.

12. (1) Organu, tessut jew ċellola għad-donazzjoni li jkun ġej minn kadavru għandu jitqies f'pazjenti li jiġu ċertifikati mejtin mill-moħħ minn tabib.

Organu li jkun ġej minn kadavru.

(2) Is-Suprintendent għandu jzomm linji gwida aġġornati u evalwati bejn il-pari għad-dijanjsi ta' mewt il-moħħ għall-finijiet ta' donazzjoni ta' organu, tessut u ċellola.

13. Organizzazzjonijiet ta' ksib u ċentri ta' trapjant għandu jkollhom jiffunzjona mekkanizmu approvat mis-Suprintendent sabiex jeżamina d-donaturi hajjin kollha li jkollhom organu potenzjali u sabiex jiddeċiedi jekk it-trapjant għandux jiġi approvat, ibbażat fuq il-kriterji li ġejjin:

Donazzjoni ta' organu haj.

(a) f'każ ta' donazzjoni bejn qraba mid-demmm u membri tal-familja li ma jkunux qraba mid-demmm, organu

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għandu jingħata lil riċevitur identifikat;

(b) f'donazzjonijiet oħra mhux relatati, rabta emozzjonali mill-qrib pre-eżistenti għandha tkun preżenti bejn id-donatur u r-riċevitur sabiex dik id-donazzjoni tkun aċċettata; u

(ċ) fil-każ ta' donazzjoni tal-organu altruwistika mhux diretta, il-prinċipju ta' ġustizzja distributtiva għandu jiġi addottat li permezz tiegħu organu li jkun ingħata għandu jiġi assenjat lil riċevitur skont il-bżonnijiet mediċi tiegħu. Dik id-deċiżjoni għandha tittiehed mis-Suprintendent.

Dmirijiet tat-tabib u ċertifikazzjoni.

14. (1) Tabib involut fil-proċess tad-donazzjoni għandu jaċċerta u jiċċertifika li d-donatur jifhem bis-shih ix-xorta u l-konsegwenzi tad-donazzjoni.

(2) Tabib m'għandux jiċċertifika xi donatur li minhabba f'inkompetenza mentali ma jkunx jista' jifhem ix-xorta u l-konsegwenzi tad-donazzjoni.

(3) F'każ ta' minuri haġ taht is-sittax-il sena tabib għandu japprova biss id-donazzjoni u t-trapjant ta' ċelloli staminali riġenerattivi *hematopoietic* għal qraba mid-demem.

Regolamenti.

15. Il-Ministru jista' jagħmel regolamenti għall-aħjar implimentazzjoni u sabiex jagħti effett aħjar lid-dispożizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att u mingħajr preġudizzju għall-ġeneralità ta' dak hawn qabel imsemmi jista', b'dawk ir-regolamenti, jippreskrivi dak kollu li għandu jkun jew li jista' jiġi preskritt u jipprovdi għal kull materja konsegwenzjali, inċidentali għal jew li jkollha x'taqsam mad-dispożizzjonijiet ta' dan l-Att.

Emendi konsegwenzjali għall-Kodiċi Kriminali. Kap. 9.

16. Il-Kodiċi Kriminali għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

(a) l-artikolu 248Ċ tiegħu għandu jiġi enumerat mill-ġdid bħala s-subartikolu (1) ta' dak l-artikolu, u minnufih wara għandu jizdied is-subartikolu ġdid li ġej:

"(2) Għall-finijiet ta' dan l-artikolu t-tnehhija tal-organi, tessuti u ċelloli għandha tinkludi l-imġiba msemmija fl-artikolu 248ĊA(1)."

(b) minnufih wara l-artikolu 248Ċ tiegħu, għandu jizdied l-artikolu ġdid li ġej:

"Traffikar ta' organi umani.

248ĊA. (1) Kull min inehhi organu, tessut jew ċellola umana minn donaturi ħajjin jew mejtin f'kull ċirkustanza minn dawn li ġejjin

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(a) meta t-tneħħija ma ssirx taħt l-Att bil-kunsens liberu, infurmat u speċifiku tad-donatur ħaj jew mejjet, jew, fil-każ tad-donatur mejjet, mingħajr ma t-tneħħija tkun awtorizzata taħt dan l-Att;

(b) meta, bi skambju għat-tneħħija ta' organi, tessuti jew ċelloli, id-donatur ħaj, jew terza persuna, ikun ġie offrut jew ikun irċieva qligħ finanzjarju jew daqstant vantaġġ;

(ċ) meta, bi skambju għat-tneħħija ta' organi, tessuti jew ċelloli minn persuna mejta, terza persuna tkun ġiet offruta jew tkun irċeviet qligħ finanzjarju jew daqstant vantaġġ,

ikun ħati ta' reat u jeħel meta jinsab ħati, il-piena ta' prigunerija minn sitt snin sa tmax-il sena.

(2) Persuna li tagħmel xi att minn dawn li ġejjin tkun ħatja ta' reat kontra dan l-artikolu -

(a) tagħmel użu mit-tneħħija ta' organi, tessuti jew ċelloli illeċiti, kif imfisser fis-subartikolu (1), għal finijiet ta' impjantazzjoni jew finijiet oħra ta' dik l-impjantazzjoni;

(b) l-impjantazzjoni ta' organi, tessuti jew ċelloli umani minn donaturi ħajjin jew mejtin meta l-impjantazzjoni ma ssirx taħt dan l-Att jew meta l-impjantazzjoni tkun, f'kull mod, magħmula bi ksur tal-Att;

(ċ) thajjar jew tirrekluta donatur tal-organi jew riċevitur għal qligħ finanzjarju jew daqstant vantaġġ;

(d) tipprepara, tippreżerva jew taħzen organi, tessuti jew ċelloli umani illeċiti li jkunu tneħħew kif imfisser fis-subartikolu (1);

(e) tittrasporta, tittrasferixxi, tirċievi, timporta jew tesporta organi, tessuti jew ċelloli umani illeċiti li jkunu tnehhew kif imfisser fis-subartikolu (1), u tehel, meta tinsab hatja, il-piena ta' prigunerija kif hemm fis-subartikolu (1).

(3) Id-dispożizzjonijiet tal-artikoli 115 u 121(3) għandhom, *mutatis mutandis*, japplikaw għal reat taht dan l-artikolu.

(4) Għall-finijiet ta' dan l-artikolu -
"l-Att" tfisser l-Att dwar id-Donazzjoni ta' Organi, Tessuti u Ċelloli Umani;

"organu" tfisser parti differenzjata tal-ġisem tal-bniedem, iffurmata minn tessuti differenti, li tirritjeni l-istruttura u l-vaskularizzazzjoni tagħha, u li jkollha l-kapaċità li tizviluppa funzjonijiet fiżjoloġiċi b'livell sinifikattiv ta' awtonomija:

Izda parti minn organu titqies ukoll li tkun organu jekk il-funzjoni tagħha tkun ser tintuza għall-istess għan bħal dak tal-organu sħiħ fil-ġisem tal-bniedem, filwaqt li tirritjeni l-htigiet ta' struttura u vaskularizzazzjoni;

"qligħ finanzjarju jew daqstant vantaġġ" m'għandhomx jinkludu kumpens għal telf ta' qligħ u kull spiża ġustifikata oħra kkawżata mit-tnehhija jew mill-eżamijiet mediċi relatati, jew kumpens fil-każ ta' danni li mhuwiex inerenti mat-tnehhija tal-organi.";

(ċ) fl-artikolu 248D tiegħu, minflok il-kliem "sa 248Ĉ" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "sa 248ĈA";

(d) fl-artikolu 248DA tiegħu, minflok il-kliem "sa 248Ĉ" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "sa 248ĈA"; u

(e) is-subartikolu (2) tal-artikolu 248E tal-Kodiċi għandu jiġi emendat kif ġej:

(i) fil-paragrafu (a) tiegħu, minflok il-kliem "tiġi kkawżata offiża gravi" għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "jew tkun irrizultat fi hsara għas-saħħa fiżika jew psikoloġika tal-vittma";

(ii) fit-test Inġliż tal-paragrafu (e) tiegħu, minflok il-kliem "article article 208A(2);" għandhom jidhlu l-

kliem "article 208AC(2)"; u

(iii) fil-paragrafu (f) tiegħu, minflok il-kelma "ttraffikata," għandhom jidhlu l-kliem "ttraffikata; jew" u minnufih wara għandhom jizdiedu l-paragrafi ġodda li ġejjin:

"(g) meta l-akkużat ikun diġà nstab ħati ta' offiża taħt dan l-artikolu; jew

(h) isir minn membru tal-familja tat-tfal, persuna li tkun qed tgħix mat-tfal jew persuna li tkun abbużat minn pożizzjoni rikonoxxuta ta' fiduċja jew awtorità,".

Mgħoddi mill-Kamra tad-Deputati fis-Seduta Nru. 399 tas-6 ta' Ġunju, 2016.

ANĠLU FARRUGIA
Speaker

RAYMOND SCICLUNA
Skrivan tal-Kamra tad-Deputati

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I assent.

(L.S.)

**MARIE-LOUISE
COLEIRO PRECA
President**

10th June, 2016

ACT No. XXVIII of 2016

An ACT to provide for human organs, tissues and cell donation and transplantation in Malta and to provide for matters ancillary or consequential thereto.

BE IT ENACTED by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:-

Short title and
commencement.

1. (1) The short title of this Act is the Human Organs, Tissues and Cell Donation Act, 2016.

(2) The provisions of this Act shall come into force on such a date as the Minister responsible for Health may by notice in the Gazette establish, and different dates may be so established for different provisions or different purposes of this Act.

Applicability.
Cap. 483.

2. (1) This Act shall apply without prejudice to the Human Blood and Transplants Act and any subsidiary legislation made thereunder.

(2) This Act shall apply to all human organ, tissue and cell donations by persons residing in Malta.

(3) Human organ, tissue and cell donation for research and autologous organ, tissue and cell donation as well as embryo donations fall outside the scope of this Act.

3. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

Interpretation.

"autologous use" means cells or tissues removed from and applied to the same person;

"cells" means individual diploid human cells or a collection of diploid human cells when not bound by any form of connective tissue;

"clinician" means a health professional being a doctor or consultant whose practice is based on direct observation and treatment of a patient;

"donation" means the act of giving human organs, tissues or cells intended for human transplantation;

"donor" means a person who donates one or several organs, tissues or cells, whether donation occurs during lifetime or after death;

"donor coordinator" means a person who confirms that the donor has the medical characteristics that ensures a successful transplantation;

"guardian" means a person appointed by a court to make decisions regarding the support, care, education, health, or welfare of an individual and includes a person who has been appointed in guardianship of a person in terms of the Civil Code;

Cap.16.

"health care professional" shall have the same meaning assigned to it under the Health Care Professions Act;

Cap. 464.

"human organ" and "organ" means a differentiated part of the human body, formed by different tissues, that maintains its structure, vascularisation and capacity to develop physiological functions with a significant level of autonomy:

Provided that a part of an organ is also considered to be an organ if its function is to be used for the same purpose as the entire organ in the human body, maintaining the requirements of structure and vascularisation;

"Minister" means the Minister responsible for Health;

"parent" means a person having parental authority;

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Cap.16. "parental authority" shall have the same meaning assigned to the term under the Civil Code;

"procurement organization" means a health care establishment, a team or a unit of a hospital, a person, or any other body which undertakes or coordinates the procurement of organs, and is authorised to do so by the Superintendent;

"recipient coordinator" means a person who ensures that the patient is in a suitable state to accept a successful transplant;

"register" shall refer to the National Human Organ and Tissue Donation Register defined in article 4;

Cap. 528. "Superintendent" means the Superintendent of Public Health in terms of the Health Act;

"tissue" means all constituent parts of the human body formed by cells;

"transplant co-ordinator" means a health care professional who coordinates activities related to organ donation and transplantation. A transplant coordinator can either be a donor coordinator or a recipient coordinator;

"transplantation centre" means a health care establishment, a team or a unit of a hospital or any other body which undertakes the transplantation of organs, tissues and cells and which is authorised to undertake such transplantation by the Superintendent.

Human Organ
and Tissues
Donation
Register.

4. (1) There shall be a National Human Organ and Tissue Donation Register which shall be maintained by the Superintendent in physical or electronic form as may be determined by the Minister.

(2) The Register shall record information in accordance with this article and other provisions of this Act and in such manner as may be prescribed from time to time. In accordance with this sub-article, the Superintendent shall record the following in the Register:

(a) details of persons residing in Malta who wish to donate their organs, tissues or cells following their demise;

(b) details of persons residing in Malta who expressly declare that they do not wish to donate their organs, tissues or cells following their demise;

(c) any particular organ, tissue and cell a person chooses to donate; and

(d) any particular organ, tissue and cell a person chooses not to donate.

(3) The Register shall be the only organs, tissues and cells register having legal validity for purposes of a donation under this Act.

5. (1) The Superintendent shall only register a person requesting to become a donor under this Act after having satisfied himself that the said person:

Registration and role of Superintendent.

- (a) has attained the age of sixteen years;
- (b) is not suffering from any mental disorder which renders him incapable of taking care of his own affairs;
- (c) has done so voluntarily, out of his own free will;
- (d) has had adequate information on the meaning and consequences of registration as a donor under this Act and has been certified under article 14.

(2) The Superintendent shall amend the said Register, whenever it appears to him necessary or appropriate to do so for giving effect to the provisions of this Act, and in particular for ensuring the accuracy of information contained in the Register, or for bringing up to date, or otherwise correcting any information entered into the Register.

(3) It shall be the duty of the Superintendent to ensure that the processing of the information contained in the Register is carried out in compliance with the Data Protection Act:

Cap. 440.

Provided that the information shall, for purposes of this Act upon a potential donation taking place, be accessed solely to determine whether a person is a registered donor or a person who has registered his intention of not being a donor.

6. (1) Any person who has attained the age of sixteen may register to donate his organs and, or tissues and, or cells. Registration shall be made in such forms as the Minister may so establish, by regulations made under this Act. All registrations shall be recorded in the Register.

Eligibility for registration.

(2) A person who chooses to donate his organs, tissues or cells shall specify which organs, tissues or cells he would wish to donate and if he wishes to exclude particular organs, tissues or cells from being donated.

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De-registration.

7. A person having registered as a donor under this Act shall be entitled to retract his choice of becoming a donor and to apply for de-registration with the Superintendent who shall forthwith record this information and de-register the said person.

Registration following choice not to be a donor.

8. A person who has expressly declared that he does not wish to donate his organs, tissues or cells may at any time thereafter register as a donor under this Act.

Death of a minor under sixteen years of age.

9. Upon the death of a minor who, at the time of death, is still under the age of sixteen, the parents or legal guardians shall be consulted with regards to an organ, tissue or cell donation taking place.

Death of an unregistered person.

10. (1) The next of kin of a deceased person who is not a registered donor may be approached by a transplant coordinator or a clinician to declare whether they consent to the donation taking place:

Provided that this sub-article shall not apply where the deceased has registered his wish not to be a donor.

(2) In the event where consent is given under this article the donation shall take place and the said person shall be deemed to have been a registered donor for purposes of this Act.

(3) In the event of a donation under this article taking place, this shall be annotated by the Superintendent in the Register.

Unfit organ.

11. Notwithstanding that a deceased person may have been a registered donor, a clinician shall have the right to decide that the organ or tissue object of the donation is unfit or unsuitable for transplantation.

Cadaveric organ.

12. (1) Cadaveric organ, tissue and cell donation shall be considered in patients who are certified brain dead by a clinician.

(2) The Superintendent shall maintain updated and peer reviewed guidelines for the diagnosis of brain death for the purposes of organ, tissue and cell donation.

Living organ donation.

13. Procurement organisations and transplantation centres shall be bound to have in place a framework approved by the Superintendent to assess all potential live organ donors and to decide whether the transplant should be approved, based on the following criteria:

(a) in the case of donation between blood relatives and family members who are not blood relatives, an organ must be donated to an identified recipient;

(b) in other non-related donations a pre-existent close emotional link has to be present between the donor and the recipient for such a donation to be acceptable; and

(c) in the case of non-directed altruistic organ donation the principle of distributive justice shall be adopted by which a donated organ shall be allocated to a recipient according to his medical needs. Such a decision shall be taken by the Superintendent.

14. (1) A clinician involved in the donation process must ascertain and certify that the donor fully understands the nature and consequences of the donation. Duties of clinician and certification.

(2) A clinician shall not certify any donor who due to mental incompetence cannot understand the nature and consequences of the donation.

(3) In the case of a living minor under the age of sixteen a clinician shall only approve the donation and transplantation of regenerative hematopoietic stem cells for blood relatives.

15. The Minister may make regulations to implement and to give better effect to the provisions of this Act and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing may, by such regulations, prescribe anything that is to be or which may be prescribed and provide for any matter consequential, incidental to or connected with the provisions of this Act. Regulations.

16. The Criminal Code shall be amended as follows:

(a) article 248C thereof shall be re-numbered as sub-article (1) thereof, and immediately thereafter there shall be added the following new sub-article: Consequential amendments to the Criminal Code. Cap. 9.

"(2) For purposes of this article, the removal of organs, tissues and cells shall include the conduct referred to in article 248CA(1)."

(b) immediately following article 248C thereof, there shall be added the following new article:

"Trafficking in human organs. 248CA. (1) Whosoever removes a human organ, tissue or cell from living or deceased donors in any of the following circumstances -

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(a) where the removal is not performed under the Act with the free, informed and specific consent of the living or deceased donor, or, in the case of the deceased donor, without the removal being authorised under the Act;

(b) where, in exchange for the removal of organs, tissues or cells the living donor, or a third party, has been offered or has received a financial gain or comparable advantage;

(c) where, in exchange for the removal of organs, tissues or cells from a deceased donor, a third party has been offered or has received a financial gain or comparable advantage,

shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction to the punishment of imprisonment for a term from six to twelve years.

(2) A person who does any of the following acts shall be guilty of an offence against this article -

(a) makes use of illicitly removed organs, tissues or cells as described in sub-article (1), for purposes of implantation or other purposes than implantation;

(b) the implantation of human organs, tissues or cells from living or deceased donors where the implantation is not performed under the Act or where the implantation is, in any manner, performed in breach of the Act;

(c) solicits or recruits an organ donor or a recipient for financial gain or comparable advantage;

(d) prepares, preserves or stores illicitly removed human organs, tissues or cells as described in sub-article (1);

(e) transports, transfers, receives, imports or exports illicitly removed human organs, tissues or cells as described in sub-article (1),

and shall be liable on conviction to the punishment laid down in sub-article (1).

(3) The provisions of articles 115 and 121(3) shall, *mutatis mutandis*, apply to an offence under this article.

(4) For purposes of this article -

"Act" means the Human Organs, Tissues and Cell Donation Act;

"human organ" means a differentiated part of the human body, formed by different tissues, that maintains its structure, vascularisation and capacity to develop physiological functions with a significant level of autonomy:

Provided that a part of an organ is also considered to be an organ if its function is to be used for the same purpose as the entire organ in the human body, maintaining the requirements of structure and vascularisation;

"financial gain or comparable advantage" shall not include compensation for loss of earnings and any other justifiable expenses caused by the removal or by the related medical examinations, or compensation in case of damage which is not inherent to the removal of organs.";

(c) in article 248D thereof, for the words "to 248C" there shall be substituted the words "to 248CA";

(d) in article 248DA thereof, for the words "to 248C" there shall be substituted the words "to 248CA"; and

(e) sub-article (2) of article 248E thereof shall be amended as follows:

(i) in paragraph (a) thereof, for the words "has caused grievous bodily harm" there shall be substituted the words "or has resulted in harm to the physical or psychological health of the victim";

(ii) in paragraph (e) thereof, for the words "article 208A(2);" there shall be substituted the words "article 208AC(2)"; and

(iii) in paragraph (f) thereof, for the word "trafficked," there shall be substituted the words "trafficked; or" and immediately thereafter there shall be

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added the following new paragraphs:

"(g) when the offender has been previously convicted of an offence under this article; or

(h) is committed by a member of the child's family, a person cohabiting with the child or a person who has abused a recognised position of trust or authority,".

Passed by the House of Representatives at Sitting No. 399 of the 6th June, 2016.

ANĠLU FARRUGIA
Speaker

RAYMOND SCICLUNA
Clerk of the House of Representatives

