



Bridging Statements

Linking the Family to the Next Part of the Process

Bridging statements can assist hospital care teams in transitioning families or legal next of kin between end of life decisions and organ donation discussions, without pre-mentioning donation. Federal regulations state that the donation agency is the official requestor of donation.

These suggested statements can help bridge the next of kin from end-of-life decisions to having a conversation about organ, eye and tissue donation with Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network. Bridging statements **DO NOT** include discussing or sharing information about donation.

Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network coordinators are authorized to speak to and request donation of the legal next of kin, even if they share with hospital staff that they do not want to donate. This is to ensure they have the information they need to make an informed decision and their donation questions are answered.

Bridging Statement Options

1. Establish Time

When you need to establish a separation of time (decoupling) between discussion of death and discussion of organ donation options.

“You’ve just received a lot of information. Please take time to be with your loved one and we will get back together soon to discuss next steps.”

This bridging statement is a good option when there is no mention of donation and a family meeting will be taking place to discuss brain death.

“You’ve just made a difficult decision to withdraw support. Please take some time to be with your loved one while we make preparations.”

This bridging statement is a good option when the family has made the decision to withdraw support. It can also be used if Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network needs more time to arrive on the unit, or was not aware that the family meeting or family decision was taking place.

2. General Link to FLDRN

When a general statement is needed to link FLDRN to the family,

“Someone will be here in a little while to discuss next steps for your family and loved one.”