



Investigation Respondent: Staff from Organ donation Office of Red Cross Society in Inner Mongolia

Investigation Date: October 12, 2020 (Tel:+86-471-4344721)

Summary:

1. The responsibility of the Red Cross Society is to promote and motivate donation registrations.
2. The registration at the Red Cross Society is not to register organs, rather, it's to register the will of volunteers who want to make organ donations. We don't have organs here; if you want to wait for an organ donation, you should go to a hospital.
3. Donations are possible only when a person dies. What's registered now is only an intent of the volunteer who wants to make donations, an intent agreeing to donate organs when the person dies. It's not a registration for the use of the donated organs, that's health agency's business.
4. The large number of people who come for donation registration does not mean there are many donated organs. A healthy person will live to 70 or 80, or even 100 years of age. There are also those who are involved in accidents...
5. We do not handle paper work for the organs used for transplants, organs for clinical usage, at the hospital. That's not controlled by us, it's by the health agency.
6. The number of donations witnessed by us varies from a dozen to more than 20 every year, more or less. There are kidneys, livers, and other organs, there are all sorts, there are hearts as well.
7. It varies from a dozen to more than 20 each year, it's not limited to kidneys.
8. The demand for transplant organs is extremely large and sources are extremely scarce. Whether it is the whole country or Inner Mongolia, or even the world, it is all like this.

Investigation Recording

Investigator: Hello, how are you? This is the Red Cross Society of Inner Mongolia, isn't it?

Red Cross Staff: Yes.

Investigator: Ah, is this the number for the office handling organ donations?

Red Cross Staff: Ah, yes.

Investigator: My family member... we went to Baotou Steel Hospital for a kidney transplant. A doctor there said that because in fact many sources of organs are registered with the Red Cross, and then they can be assigned to hospitals. So I would like to ask, does our Red Cross receive a lot of donations? How long do we usually have to wait before we can have our surgery done?



Red Cross Staff: Well, the Red Cross doesn't handle organ distribution. Our job is to promote and motivate registration.

Investigator: Is it the case that only those registered in your place can be assigned to hospitals? Are there many people who make such registrations? Do you have a lot of registered donors?

Red Cross Staff: It's not like that. What we register are only...now it's all healthy people who come to register.

Investigator: Ah.

Red Cross Staff: So what they mean is, if something happens later, that is, only when they pass away will donation happen. It's only their intent, intent to agree to donate, which means, when they die, they are willing to make donations. They are all different in age. It does not mean the registration is for...the registration you were referring to is, where the donated organs will be used.

Investigator: Yeah.

Red Cross Staff: That is not our job. The health agency handle that. We are only register the person who has such an intent, register a healthy person, that kind of registration. If I...or you, we both can be registered as voluntary organ donors. We are willing to donate our organs when we pass away, and that is what it means. It's not, however, that someone has passed away, and the organs have been obtained, that's all handled by the health agency.

Investigator: Eh, don't you get involved? Doesn't anything go through your formalities?

Red Cross Staff: We are not involved. I...I can only tell you that the volunteers who are registered are all healthy persons, and their intents are, when they pass away in the future, they are willing to donate their organs. That's what it means.

Investigator: Understand. Then you...

Red Cross Staff: That is, everybody can do it. That is, we don't handle organs, because we can't possibly do that, we are...this is not within our responsibility, it's under the health agency's responsibility.

Investigator: Oh.

Red Cross Staff: He probably got it wrong. There's indeed a registration with the Red Cross, but it's not a registration of organs, it's those volunteers who want to make donations and have such intent registered that are in our system.

Investigator: This is what I mean, if there are many people who are willing to make donations and who have come to register, doesn't that mean it will be faster for us to get an organ, we might have a better chance. If there are very few people who have registered, we then don't need to wait, so we can't wait here. Is it...



Red Cross Staff: I don't have an explanation for you there. You think about it, for a healthy person, he can expect to live up to 70, 80, or even 100 years of age. But there are also those who have accidents. That's how it should be explained. Did you get that?

Investigator: So you mean...

Red Cross Staff: You can't wish misfortune falls on others, can you?

Investigator: That is, those organs for clinical use are not from you, why then did that doctor say...

Red Cross Staff: Right. It's from the health agency.

Investigator: I'm confused. But he said to me...

Red Cross Staff: Don't repeat your question. I have explained it to you.

Investigator: The type of organs that can be used for our transplant are actually from you, that is, it is you who make it known how many there would be, or how many could be provided a year.

Red Cross Staff: It's not like that.

Investigator: We wait...

Red Cross Staff: This is not up to us. I have been telling you it's up to the health agency. And then it's the witnessing. When someone is about to die, we go witnessing organ harvesting.

Investigator: Oh.

Red Cross Staff: So you need to talk to doctors about what you want.

Investigator: Do you have a lot of this type of organs?

Red Cross Staff: We don't do that type of registration.

Investigator: Then did you witness many cases this year?

Red Cross Staff: I have no information of it, it's up to the health agency, and I've told you several times. All we do are...

Investigator: Oh.

Red Cross Staff: You don't understand it. Haven't I been telling you all along that you should see a doctor about it. The health agency is a different system from us, we are not of the same system.

Investigator: Can you tell me how many harvested organs you have witnessed this year? How many organs were witnessed that were harvested?



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Red Cross Staff: It depends.

Investigator: How could you not know it, since you handled them yourselves? How many harvested organs that can be used clinically have you witnessed?

Red Cross Staff: It varies every year. Sometimes a dozen, sometimes more than 20, more or less. .

Investigator: Oh, a dozen or more than 20, it's like that every year?

Red Cross Staff: More or less, it's hard to say. There were kidneys, livers, as well as others, it's all different, and there were hearts too.

Investigator: We won't wait here if there were only a dozen. You were saying there were only a dozen. Did you really just witness a dozen a year? So few? I understand now. You only have a dozen a year, and not all of them were kidneys or livers, they were all different, right?

Red Cross Staff: A dozen, or more than 20, and not all of them were kidneys.

Investigator: Anyway that's all you witnessed, and the number of kidneys that can be used is uncertain, right?

Red Cross Staff: Right, ah...right, right.

Investigator: Okay, thank you.

Red Cross Staff: The transplant demand is extremely large and the sources are extremely scarce. This is not an issue for Inner Mongolian or the whole nation. The world is all like this, patients are waiting, and there are those who have been waiting for years.

Investigator: Okay, got it. Thank you. Sorry for your time. Bye.

Red Cross Staff: Okay, no problem.