

Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill

EXPLANATORY NOTES

Explanatory notes to the Bill, prepared by the Department of Health and Social Care with the consent of Mr Geoffrey Robinson, are published separately as Bill 12-EN.

Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Bill

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TO

Enable persons in England to withhold consent for organ donation and transplantation; and for connected purposes.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

1 “Appropriate consent” to adult transplantation activities: England

(1) Section 3 of the Human Tissue Act 2004 (“appropriate consent”: adults) is amended as follows.

(2) *In subsection (6), after paragraph (b) insert—*

“(ba) *if neither paragraph (a) nor paragraph (b) applies and the activity is one to which subsection (6A) applies, the deemed consent of the person concerned;*” 5

(3) In subsection (6), in paragraph (c) after “applies” insert “and the activity is not one to which subsection (6A) applies”.

(4) After subsection (6) insert— 10

“(6A) This subsection applies to the following activities done in England unless the body is the body of an excepted adult—

(a) the storage of the body of a deceased person for use for the purpose of transplantation;

(b) the removal from the body of a deceased person, for use for the purpose of transplantation, of any relevant material of which the body consists or which it contains; 15

(c) the storage for use for the purpose of transplantation of any relevant material which has come from a human body;

(d) the use for the purpose of transplantation of any relevant material which has come from a human body. 20

(6B) The person concerned is to be deemed, for the purposes of subsection (6)(ba), to have consented to the activity unless a person who stood in a qualifying relationship to the person concerned immediately before

death provides information that would lead a reasonable person to conclude that the person concerned would not have consented.”

(5) After subsection (8) insert—

“(9) In subsection (6A) “excepted adult” means—

- (a) an adult who has died and who had not been ordinarily resident in England for a period of at least 12 months immediately before dying, or 5
- (b) an adult who has died and who for a significant period before dying lacked capacity to understand the effect of subsection (6)(ba). 10

(10) For the purposes of subsection (9) a significant period means a sufficiently long period as to lead a reasonable person to conclude that it would be inappropriate for consent to be deemed to be given under subsection (6)(ba).”

2 Consequential amendments 15

(1) The Human Tissue Act 2004 is further amended as follows.

(2) In section 1 (authorisation of activities for scheduled purposes), after subsection (9B) insert—

“(9C) Subsection (1) does not apply in relation to the following activities done in Northern Ireland in relation to relevant material that was removed from a human body in England— 20

- (a) the storage for use for the purpose of transplantation of the relevant material;
- (b) the use for the purpose of transplantation of the relevant material.” 25

(3) In section 1, in subsection (10)(c), for “or (9B)(b)” substitute “, (9B)(b) or (9C)”.

(4) In section 27 (provision with respect to consent), after subsection (8) insert—

“(8ZA) The duty under section 26(3) shall also have effect, in particular, to require the Authority to give practical guidance on the circumstances in which the person concerned is to be deemed to have consented under section 3(6)(ba). 30

(8ZB) In giving practical guidance by virtue of subsection (8ZA), the Authority must, in particular, give guidance about the provision of information of the type described in section 3(6B) by a person who stood in a qualifying relationship to the person concerned immediately before death.” 35

3 Extent, commencement and short title

(1) This Act extends to England and Wales and Northern Ireland only.

(2) This section comes into force on the day on which this Act is passed.

(3) The remaining provisions of this Act come into force on such day or days as the Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument appoint. 40

(4) This Act may be cited as the Organ Donation (Deemed Consent) Act 2018.

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To enable persons in England to withhold consent for organ donation and transplantation; and for connected purposes.

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supported by
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