**Donation Conversation Scripts**

**My husband never wanted to be on life support. I want him to be removed from the ventilator.**

I hear that you are saying your husband never wanted to be on life support, it must be difficult for you to see your husband this way. I respect that you want to remove the ventilator and support your husband’s wishes. But before that happens I'd like to talk to you about an opportunity that your husband has because he is on the ventilator. I understand his point of view as I myself would not wish to remain on a ventilator. Did your husband have any opinions in regards to donation? Your husband has the opportunity to help others. Your husband would only have tolerated ventilator support long enough to initiate the donation process.

**My daughter has been through enough. I don't want her cut on.**

"Your daughter has been through so much, and your concerns about her body are very appropriate. You are looking out for her best interest and we desire to do the same for her and for her family. Unfortunately no one can change all that she's had to go through, but donation could change this terribly devastating situation into an opportunity of life for other families who are on the verge of having to deal with the same loss you have been faced with."

**I am sorry but I just want my wife to be whole when we bury her.**

I am sorry you are going through this difficult time. Many families have found comfort in knowing their loved ones organs were transplanted to save the lives of others. Many life saving organs are destroyed during preparation for funeral viewings and autopsies by medical examiners. Many families are unaware the vital organs are removed during these processes. Since the organs will be removed during these processes, we would like to offer you the chance to give someone life.

**When my wife signed up on the donor registry, she did not know what she was signing up for. I know she would not want to go through all of this.**

I have to believe because your wife signed up that her intent was to give and help others, and that she would be willing to go through the process that takes to help save lives. I respect and fears and concerns you have and would like to address them so that you have peace with your wife's decision.

**It just takes too much time and we want to be done.**

That is not an unusual response that we hear from families. You have going through a very traumatic event. You are tired and in shock. My job is to help support you through this time. One way of doing that is if you can to go home for a bit, to get a shower, lay down and rest, take care of things there and just not be here.

We have families that take this time to plan the funeral or memorial service. You can know that your loved one is going to be cared for and we can keep you updated if you leave. Some families split the time up into shifts so people can have their own time with their loved one.

**I heard I heard about (\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_) who was diagnosed brain dead and they’re fine.**

You know, I’ve heard that kind of thing before and what I’ve come to know is that sometimes, in trying to describe a very bad head injury someone will use the term “brain dead”. It’s a misuse. BD is a very specific diagnosis that means all, not just some of the person’s brain cells have died.” It is descriptive of why they died—their brain failed. Just like cardiac death means someone died because their heart failed.”