Appropriate Donation Terminology

In May 2005, the Donor Family Council of the Association of Organ Procurement Organizations (AOPO) approved the use of terminology that is donation-friendly when referencing donors. The terminology was unanimously supported by the American Society of Transplantation (AST) and the American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS) and was adopted by the American Journal of Transplantation.

Appropriate	Inappropriate
Recover organs	Harvest organs
Recovery of organs	Harvesting of organs
Donation of organs	Harvesting of organs
Donation after circulatory death	Non-heart beating donation
Deteriorating to brain death	Progressing to brain death
Determine brain death	Declare brain death
Death	Legal death
Authorization	Consent
Facilitated donation	Did a donor
Mechanical support	Life support
Ventilator support	Life support
Changing goals of care to comfort	Withdrawing care
Donated organs and tissues	Body parts
Transplanted organs per donor	Yield
Deceased donation	Cadaveric donation
Deceased donor	Cadaver
Transplant	
Requestor	
Recovery agency	
Recipient	
Donor registry	