

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ ( )

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**Liver donor found for HK woman after teen daughter's urgent plea, surgery under way**

A woman whose teenage daughter plans to challenge the authorities for not allowing her to be a liver donor has been pushed into the operating theatre for transplant surgery. It is understood that a man who is not related to Tang Kwai-sze, a 43-year-old mother suffering from **acute** liver failure, donated part of his liver to Tang. The surgery is expected to last for about six to eight hours.

This comes as Tang's 17-year-old daughter challenges against the authorities for not letting her take a test to see if she is a fit donor because she is still three months shy of turning 18 – the legal age to be a living donor. The case has **sparked** debate in the city, with concern groups and experts saying that the Hospital Authority should determine the mental and emotional stability of **potential** organ donors on the basis of professional assessment, not age.

“Her situation is **critical** and each day her condition is **deteriorating**,” said the girl, known only as Michelle, on a radio show. “From the first meeting with the doctor, I had volunteered to do it. It's something that I really want. I am very aware about all the **risks**.”

Speaking on the same programme, doctor and Civic Party lawmaker Kwok Ka-ki said the city's laws were “behind” and not in line with the government's own efforts to encourage more organ donations. Hong Kong has one of the lowest donation rates in the world at just 5.8 donors for every one million people.

Kwok cited overseas examples such as Scotland, which does not have an age limit, and Canada, where in provinces like Alberta, the law allows living minors under 18 to donate organs or tissue for transplant - as long as there's informed **consent**, no knowledge that another guardian of the minor would refuse, and approval of an independent assessment committee.

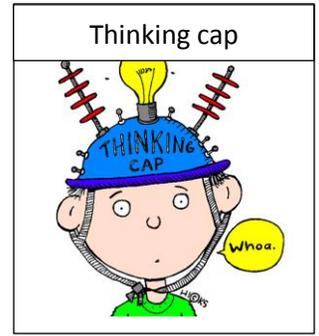
Hong Kong's Human Organ Transplant Ordinance does not grant any **discretion** in the handling of transplant cases, and living donors must be at least 18 years old. As a result, the authority has not been willing to even test Michelle for mental and physical soundness. The argument is that minors may not be mature enough to understand the risks involved.

Hong Kong Society of Transplantation Council president Chak Wai-leung said: “I believe age shouldn't be used to determine whether someone is mature. “It depends on their life experience and background. Hence, there should be some objective third-party professional assessment to determine maturity.”

Alex Lam, a solicitor and the chairman of Patients' Voices, a concern group for patients that is helping Michelle, said they had written to the authority to request an assessment but had yet to receive a reply. They have **resorted** to private clinical testing, and if Michelle is deemed mentally and physically fit for a transplant they will take legal action through the courts. Lam said there was some legal basis for their judicial challenge, including grounds of human rights and one's right to survive.

**Questions to think about:**

- What do you think of this case and the issues involved?
- Why do you think organ donation in Hong Kong is so low?
- There is another hidden problem in the word with people needing organs. Why does this problem exist and what can be done about it?



**1. I: Vocabulary and understanding meaning**

Match the meaning and/or synonym to the words which have been highlighted in bold in the article.

Column A: Word from text	Letter	Column B: Meaning or synonym
1. plea (n)		A: provide a stimuli for something, cause something to happen, raise a discussion of an event or process
2. acute (adj)		B: to get worse/worsen
3. spark(ed) (v)		C: danger
4. potential (adj)		D: the freedom to decide what should be done in a particular situation.
5. critical (adj)		E: turn to and adopt (a course of action, especially an extreme or undesirable one) so as to resolve a difficult situation.
6. deteriorate (-ing) (v)		F: severe/very bad/intense degree of pain, for example
7. risk(s)		G: extremely ill or at risk of death
8. consent (n)		H: a request made in an urgent and emotional manner
9. discretion (n)		I: possible
10. resort(ed) (v)		J: permission for something to happen or agreement to do something

**II: Usage of vocabulary:** Fill in the missing words of the sentences below using the vocabulary (1-10) from column A. Make sure your answers are grammatically correct. Remember you may have to change the part of speech from the one given in Part I.

- Unfortunately, due to a serious accident, the woman is in a (a) \_\_\_\_\_ condition in hospital. Her chances of survival (b) \_\_\_\_\_ further, in other words, worsen, if she does not get the blood transfusions she needs. As she has a rare blood type, the doctors and the hospital have put a (c) \_\_\_\_\_, an urgent call, to the public asking people to come forward and give blood. To date, no (d) \_\_\_\_\_ blood donors have come forward.
- Schools need the \_\_\_\_\_ of parents for the students to take part in external activities. They need to get the parents' permission.
- The pain was so \_\_\_\_\_, he could not stop himself from crying out aloud.
- Mountaineering is a \_\_\_\_\_ sport. The danger of a serious accident or death is quite high.
- You should do that as a last \_\_\_\_\_, in other words, when there is no other possible course of action to solve the problem.
- The judge used his \_\_\_\_\_ to give out the sentence. He has enough knowledge of the law to be able to decide what is right or wrong for the individual convicted of the crime.
- The issue \_\_\_\_\_ a heated debate. Everyone had something to say.

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