

WHAT IS ORGAN, TISSUE, AND EYE DONATION?

Organ, tissue, and eye donation saves and heals lives. It offers the hope for a productive, healthy life for those in need. Every day, transplant recipients return to their families, friends, and communities – all through the generosity of individuals willing to give the gift of life through organ, tissue, and eye donation.

Commonly asked questions about donation:

How much does donation cost to the donor family?

Nothing. There is no charge to the donor, the donor's family, or the donor's estate.

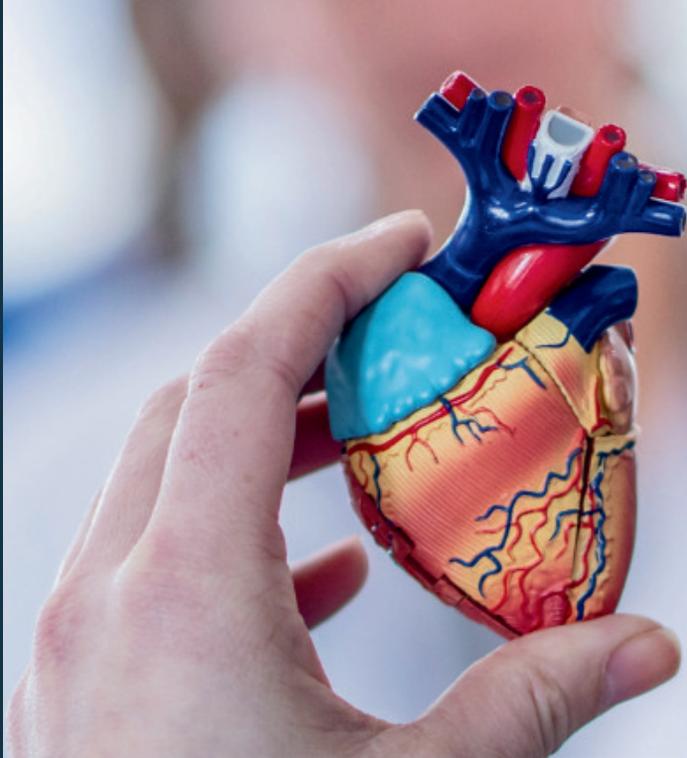
If I donate, may I still have an open casket funeral?

Yes. Organ, tissue, and eye donation involves standard surgical techniques and prosthetics are used to maintain body form.

How is priority determined for who receives an organ transplant?

When a donated organ becomes available, a list is generated from United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS) which ranks recipients based on severity of illness, length of time on the waiting list, size compatibility of organs, blood type, tissue type, and proximity to donor (because of time constraints on donated organs).

To learn more about the waiting list please visit:
unos.org/transplant/



THANK YOU FOR REGISTERING TO BE AN ORGAN, TISSUE, AND EYE DONOR

By making this choice, you can potentially save or heal up to 80 lives.

This pamphlet is to inform you on what it means to be a registered donor, and what your loved ones can expect.

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Scan here to learn more about organ, tissue and eye donation, and read more stories.



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE REGISTERED AS AN ORGAN, TISSUE, AND EYE DONOR?

When you register as an organ, tissue, and eye donor, you are saying "YES" to helping others after your death. Your decision gives medical professionals the ability to evaluate and recover your organs and tissues to save lives and heal those in need.

Choosing to register as a donor is your legal right. This decision is personal, meaningful and, unless you are a minor, cannot be changed by your family.

Why should I talk with my family about my decision to register?

When your loved ones know your decision, it can bring comfort, clarity, and peace during a difficult time. If your family is not aware of your choice, their lack of knowledge can unintentionally cause distress. That's why it's important to share your decision and talk with your family.

Does next of kin have the authority to override the registry?

No. Families may not override your decision to donate as it is the legal right of individuals to make the donation decision for themselves.

What happens if a family is opposed to their loved one's donor designation?

Most families support their loved one's choice to save lives. If a family is opposed, DonorConnect staff will confirm documentation, address questions or concerns, and work with the family to help them understand the impact of donor designation while advocating for the individual's decision.



The Process of Organ, Tissue, and Eye Donation



Donors Pass in a Hospital

To ensure the best possible outcome for transplant recipients, potential organ donors must pass away in a hospital while under the care of medical professionals. Organ donation is only considered after all life saving efforts have been exhausted and death has been confirmed. Because of the many variables involved in a patient's care, treatment, and circumstances of passing, organ donation is a rare event. In fact, fewer than 3 percent of deaths in the United States result in organ donation.



Evaluated for Donation

In the time leading up to a potential donor's passing, medical professionals from DonorConnect work closely with doctors, nurses, and family members to assess the possibility of organ donation. To determine viability, the donor may remain on a ventilator while necessary medical tests are performed.



Donation & Transplantation

Once donation viability is confirmed, the national transplant list is consulted to identify the best possible match for transplantation. Skilled surgeons then use specialized techniques to recover transplantable organs and tissues. To ensure the donor's body is suitable for funeral viewing, prosthetics may be used to restore physical appearance, including replacing bones and eyes.



Funeral Services

Our Aftercare team is available following donation - and for up to two years afterward - to provide support, answer questions, and offer bereavement resources. Organ donation does not prevent you from having an open-casket funeral for your loved one. Your DonorConnect representative will work closely with you throughout the donation process to ensure it does not interfere with your ability to hold a viewing or memorial service.