



Learn the Facts

Despite continuing efforts at public education, misconceptions and inaccuracies about donation persist. Learn these facts to help you better understand organ and tissue donation:

Fact: Anyone, regardless of age or medical history, can sign up to be a donor.

Fact: Organs and tissues are donated and recovered only after death. Age and health considerations are evaluated on a case-by-case basis at the time of death. There are very few absolute health exclusions to donation so everyone should consider themselves as good candidates for donation and register for donation if that is their wish.

Fact: Most major religions in the United States support organ and tissue donation as one of the highest forms of giving and caring to others.

Fact: The first responsibility of medical professionals is to save lives, and every effort will be made to save your life before donation is considered. Donation is only pursued as an option after all life-saving measures have failed and death is legally declared.

Fact: Although celebrities get most of the media attention, the fact is that thousands of other patients receive donated organs as well. Donor organs are matched to recipients based on blood and tissue type, geographic location and medical urgency. Organ allocation is blind to wealth or social status. Further, factors such as race, gender, age or celebrity status are not considered when determining who receives an organ.

Fact: An open casket funeral is possible for organ, eye and tissue donors. Through the entire donation process the body is treated with care, respect and dignity.

Fact: There is no cost to the family of donors for organ and tissue donation. All expenses related to the donation are paid for by the federally designated organ procurement organization.

Fact: Registering to be a donor is easy. Register online anytime (18+) at www.RegisterMe.org to find out how to register in your state. You can also register when you apply for and renew your driver's license or state ID.

Fact: Your decision to be a donor is your legal consent, but you should still share your decision with family and people close to you. Find out if your loved ones are also registered donors.