

Frequently Asked Questions

About organ, eye and tissue donation

Most people support donation and just have not thought about registering or haven't been given the opportunity. That's where you come in!

Will doctors work as hard to save my life if they know I am a donor?

- In an emergency, it's the entire medical team's first priority to save the life of their patient, and they will not check to see if you're an organ donor. Donation is not an option until after a patient has passed away.

Who can register?

- Everyone age 15 ½ and older! Up until age 18, parent or guardian does have final decision about donation.
- Anyone can register regardless of his or her medical history. A medical evaluation is done by professionals at the time of death to determine eligibility. If it's something you believe in, let the doctors make that decision when the time comes!

Is there an age limit to registering?

- There's no age limit on registering as a donor. One out of three donors is over the age of 50!

What if I am already registered?

- Awesome! If you're not sure, you can always register again!

Do most religions support donation?

- No major religion opposes organ and tissue donation.

Should someone register here if they are from out of town?

- If someone lives here for part of the year, it's a good idea to register here as well! Or, that person can register on the national registry at RegisterMe.org.

Is there a cost to the donor family?

- There is no cost to the donor's family for organ, eye and tissue donation.

Will I be able to have an open casket funeral?

- Yes, the donation process can allow for an open casket funeral if the donor/their family wishes. Donation won't impact any other funeral arrangements either.

Who will receive my donated organs and tissues?

- Many factors go into the matching process, including medical urgency, blood type and geographical location of the donor and recipient, among other criteria.
- Due to medical privacy laws, the identities of donors and recipients must be kept anonymous unless both parties agree to share that information.

Can I decide which organs and tissues I want donated?

- After registering as a donor, you can go log in to DonateLifeAZ.org to specify your donation preferences.

Does the donor heart have to be printed on my license?

- No, you do not have to have it printed on your license to be registered. The registry is checked at the time of a person's passing regardless if it is printed on their license. The donor heart on a person's license or ID card is simply a reminder for the individual, not for medical professionals.

Is this the same thing as when I registered to donate blood/bone marrow?

- No, while those are also lifesaving and healing gifts, organ donation is a different registry.

Where can I register as an organ, eye and tissue donor?

- Here right now by filling out a registration card!
- At the MVD when applying for or renewing a license or ID card.
- Online at DonateLifeAZ.org