

The Donation Conversation

For many people, hosting a Donate Life Arizona table in a high-traffic area or at an event will be an integral part of encouraging people to join the DonateLifeAZ Registry.

Other important reminders:

- **Think and act positively!** Not everyone will sign up on the spot, and that's okay. Remaining supportive and offering information will allow those who aren't sure about registering to walk away feeling positive about their interaction, making them more likely to continue the conversation with friends and family.
- **Celebrate a yes, respect a no!** Donation is an extremely personal decision. Your role is to help people make an informed choice, but the decision to register or not is theirs entirely and is to be respected.

Say what?!

Asking strangers about organ donation can leave even the most outgoing people a little tongue-tied. Here are some proven ways to help open what could be a lifesaving conversation.

- "Hi" or "Hello" (Yes, this is basic, but sometimes a simple "hello" and a smile is all that is needed to get started)
- "We are verifying licenses to see if you are a registered donor!"
- "We're signing up heroes today. Want to join in?"
- "Do you have a donor heart on your driver's license?"
- "Hi, are you a registered organ and tissue donor?"

"I need my organs!"

- This is for organ donation after you pass away, so you won't need them then!

"I have to check with my parents." or "My parents don't want me to."

- Donation is a personal choice, but it is important to discuss it with your family and loved ones. Make sure that they know your wishes!

Looking for more preparation in talking with the public? Take a look at the FAQ document on the resource page.

Now that I have your attention ...

Once the conversation is started, there are several things that can help it continue. Providing information about why organ donation is important, what registration is, and how it can be done are all key to continuing the conversation.

Why donation is important:

- Registering to be an organ and tissue donor saves lives!
- Donation is also a gift to donor families (it can bring peace, a sense of legacy, healing, hope, etc.)
- One donor can save or heal the lives of up to eight people through organ donation and 75 people through tissue donation.
- More than 2,200 Arizonans are currently on the national waiting list (create a “picture” of this number by comparing it to the population of a familiar city, country, the event itself, etc.)
- It only takes 38 seconds to sign up to save lives!

What registration is:

- If you want to help others, register your decision. Registering makes your lifesaving decision known to your loved ones.
- Don’t exclude yourself! Registration is open to everyone – regardless of age, gender, health issues, country of origin, faith, ethnicity or cultural background.
- Registering as a donor makes your decision known so your family will not have to make that decision during what is already a stressful time. We still encourage you to discuss your decision with your family so they know your wishes.

How to register:

- Register right here at our registration table!
- Go online at www.DonateLifeAZ.org
- Or using a personalized URL, which you can request [here](#).

How to know if a person is already registered:

- If they have a red heart symbol on their driver’s license, they are already registered as an organ and tissue donor.
- Celebrate: Make it a big deal that they registered / reaffirmed decision. High fives, cheers, applause, etc. This draws attention!
- Don’t Stop There! Encourage them to share their decision with friends and family, including posting on social media. If they are with other people, encourage them to bring their friends over.

Don’t forget to thank those who register ... and those who have already done so!