



It can sometimes seem intimidating to ask people to register as donors. The truth is, most people support donation and just have not thought about registering, or have not been given the opportunity. Use these tips for ideas on how to start the conversation, overcome misconceptions, and answer common questions.

STARTING THE CONVERSATION

Whether you are holding a registration table at a football game, community event or just on campus one day, it is important to engage your audience. This means standing in front of the table to draw people in, rather than waiting for them to come to you.

Open with an interesting fact.

- “Hey, did you know that you can save eight lives by registering as a donor?”

Use giveaways to engage people as they walk by, whether it is a bracelet, pair of sunglasses or food.

- “Do you want a free donut? We’re giving them away to everyone who stops by to learn more or registers to be an organ donor!”

Just ask!

- “We’re registering people as organ donors today! Have you registered yet? It only takes a minute.”

OVERCOMING MISCONCEPTIONS

“Doctors won’t save my life if they know I am an organ donor.”

- In an emergency, it is the entire medical team’s first priority to save the life of their patient, and they will not check to see if you are an organ donor. Doctors work hard to save the patient’s life, but sometimes there is a complete and irreversible loss of brain function. The patient is declared clinically and legally dead. Only then is donation an option.

“You don’t want my organs!”

- Even if you drink or smoke, you could still be a donor! Let the doctors decide when the time comes. A medical evaluation is done by donation professionals at the time of death to determine eligibility.

“I have a medical condition, so I can’t.”

- Anyone can register regardless of his or her medical history. A medical evaluation is done by donation professionals at the time of death to determine eligibility. If it is something you believe in, let the doctors make that decision when the time comes!

“I’m too old to donate.”

- Anyone can be a potential donor, regardless of age. One out of three donors is over the age of 50! A medical evaluation is done by donation professionals at the time of death to determine eligibility.

“I think I’m already registered.”

- Awesome! If you’re not sure, you can always register again in the National Donate Life Registry! The national and state registries are separate registries, but both are checked at the time of a person’s death.



“It’s against my religion.”

- All major religions support organ, eye and tissue donation as one of the highest expressions of compassion and generosity.

“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!

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will I be able to have an open casket funeral if I donate?

- An open casket funeral is possible for organ, eye and tissue donors. Donation will not 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 organ donors and recipients must be kept anonymous unless both parties agree to share that information.

Does my social and/or financial status play any part in whether or not I will receive an organ if I ever need one?

- No. A national system matches available organs from the donor with people on the waiting list based on blood type, body size, how sick they are, donor distance, tissue type and time on the list.
- Race, income, gender, celebrity and social status are never considered.

Can I decide which organs and tissues I want donated?

- After registering as a donor on [RegisterMe.org](https://www.registerme.org), you can login online to specify your donation preferences.

Why register my decision to be an organ, eye and tissue donor?

- You can save up to 8 lives and heal the lives of more than 75 people.
- Donation gives comfort to the donor family in knowing that their loved one helped to save the lives of others.
- Registering your decision and sharing it with your family lets them know your wishes.

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

- Online right now! Sign up with the National Donate Life Registry at [RegisterMe.org](https://www.registerme.org).
- In the Medical ID tab of the iPhone Health app.
- At the DMV when applying for or renewing a license or ID card.
- It is important to tell your family members that you have decided to register your decision to be a donor so that they will know your wishes.