MARK HERE 4LIFE
ORGAN DONATION ADVOCACY

MYTH-BUSTING EDUCATION
INFORMATION SHEET

Make an Informed Decision. Give the Gift of Life.

Fear and misinformation are the biggest barriers to organ donation registration. We're here to help you get the facts.

Clear answers. Compassionate conversations. Informed decisions. Because the right information can change someone's tomorrow.

The Facts Behind Common Myths

Myth #1: Doctors won't try as hard to save my life if I'm a donor.

FACT: Your medical team is always focused on saving your life. Doctors treating you are separate from the professionals involved in organ donation. Donation is only considered after every effort has been made and death has been declared.

Myth #2: My religion doesn't allow donation.

FACT: Many faith traditions support donation as an act of compassion and generosity. Beliefs can differ among individuals and religious leaders, so it's reasonable to discuss your questions with someone you trust in your faith community.

Myth #3: I'm too old to donate.

FACT: There is no strict upper age limit. People of all ages can register. Medical professionals evaluate organs and tissues at the time of donation to determine whether they can be used to help someone else.

Myth #4: My family will have to pay for the cost of donation.

FACT: The costs directly associated with recovering donated organs and tissues are not charged to the donor's family. The family remains responsible for the medical care provided before death and for other funeral expenses.

Myth #5: Organ donation prevents an open-casket funeral.

FACT: Donation is performed with care and respect for the donor. It generally does not prevent an open-casket funeral or interfere with traditional funeral arrangements.

Myth #6: Registering as a donor means I will automatically donate every organ.

FACT: Registering expresses your decision to be a donor. Medical professionals determine which organs and tissues are suitable for transplantation or other authorized purposes.

Understanding the Organ Donation Process

Knowing what happens can help ease concerns and make the decision to register more comfortable.

1

Register Your Decision

You can register through your state's donor registry or another authorized method.

2

Medical Care Comes First

If you become critically ill or injured, your medical team focuses on saving your life. Donation is considered only when appropriate criteria are met.

3

Eligibility Is Evaluated

Specialists review medical history and evaluate the organs and tissues to determine what can be donated.

4

Matched with Recipients

Donated organs are allocated to people on the waiting list based on medical criteria, including compatibility and urgency.

5

The Gift of Life Continues

Transplanted organs can give recipients longer, healthier lives. Tissue donation can also restore function and improve quality of life.

Questions Worth Asking

Making an informed decision begins with asking questions. Consider discussing the following with your family or a professional:

- How does organ donation work if I die in a hospital?
- Can I change my mind after registering?
- What happens if my family disagrees with my decision?
- Can I donate organs and tissues?
- How are donated organs matched with recipients?
- What happens to my body after donation?

There is no need to have every answer immediately. Learning at your own pace is an important part of making a decision that feels right for you.

Knowledge Replaces Fear. Understanding Creates Opportunity.

Every person deserves the opportunity to learn the facts about organ donation. By challenging myths, encouraging open conversations, and sharing real information, we can help save lives.

Learn More. Share the Facts. Make a Difference.

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REAL PEOPLE.
REAL IMPACT.