

DONATION FAST FACTS

One donor can save up to eight lives through organ donation and enhance more than 75 lives through tissue donation.

In Maryland, on average a person is twelve times more likely to need an organ transplant than they are to become a deceased organ donor.

The heart, liver, kidneys, lungs, pancreas, and intestines can be donated, as well as skin, corneas, bone, veins, connective tissue, and heart valves.

Organ donation is very rare, needing to occur under specific conditions when a person passes away in a hospital while on a ventilator due to brain death or cardiac death.

Nationally, over 100,000 Americans are currently on the waiting list for a lifesaving organ. In Maryland, about 3,000 people are waiting.*

Over 150 million Americans are registered as organ donors, including over 3 million Marylanders.*

All major religions in the United States support organ, eye, and tissue donation and consider it the ultimate act of charity and generosity. Please consult a religious advisor if you have questions or concerns.

There is never any cost for donation to the donor or their family. If you decide to be an organ, eye, and tissue donor, your family will NOT have to pay for any medical expenses associated with the donation.

Age and most health conditions do not preclude someone from organ, eye, and tissue donation.

Donors can still have open casket funerals.

Surveys show that 95% of people in the U.S. support organ donation, yet in many states, the organ donor registration rate is around 50%.*

Registering as an organ donor takes just thirty seconds. You can sign up next time you go to the Motor Vehicle Administration office or by going online to www.registerme.org.^{*as of 5/17/21}

It is important to discuss organ, eye, and tissue donation with your family, so they are aware of your wishes in an emergency.