



Saving lives through organ and tissue donation

♥ Share your life

More than 2,000 Virginians are waiting for organ transplants and thousands more could benefit from tissue transplant. Hundreds of Virginians die needlessly each year due to a lack of donors. You can help save lives by deciding now to be an organ and tissue donor.

♥ Designate your decision

You may declare your intent to be an organ and tissue donor by checking the appropriate box on the driver's license or ID card application or renewal.

You may designate your donation decision online at www.dmvnow.com using your DMV-issued pin number at the time of your renewal.

Or, simply inform a DMV customer service representative of your decision when you renew your driver's license or request a ID card at any of DMV's customer service centers.

♥ Donate life ... designate your decision today

When you decide to be a donor, it is important that you document your decision and notify others of your choice. In Virginia, your choice is legally binding and upon your death, no family member or agent can refuse to honor your donor designation in any way.

♥ Consider becoming a bone marrow donor

Marrow transplants are used to treat patients whose marrow stops producing the correct amount of various blood cells. More than 60 fatal diseases, including several types of leukemia are treated with unrelated marrow transplants.

♥ For more information about organ, tissue, eye or bone marrow donation:

Contact the Virginia Transplant Council at 1-800-52DONOR or 1-800-523-6667.





Questions and Answers

♥ **What organs and tissues can I donate?**

Organs you can donate include heart, kidneys, pancreas, lungs, liver and intestines. Tissues you can donate include eyes, skin, bone, heart valves, veins and tendons. One person can help 50 other people.

♥ **Will my decision to become a donor affect the quality of my medical care?**

No. Organ and tissue recovery happens only after every effort has been made to save your life and death has been legally declared.

♥ **Will donation disfigure my body? Can there be an open casket funeral?**

Donation does not interfere with funeral arrangements. In most cases, there is no impact upon your ability to view the deceased. There may be some limitations on your choice of garments.

♥ **What happens to my donated organs and tissues?**

A national system distributes organs fairly. Factors such as race, gender, age, income or celebrity status are not considered when determining who receives organs or tissues. Buying and selling organs, tissues and eyes is illegal.

♥ **Are there age considerations for donation?**

No. People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential organ and tissue donors. Your medical condition at the time of death will determine what organs and tissues can be donated. Volunteer bone marrow donors must be between age 18 and 55 and in good general health.

♥ **Are there any costs to my family for donation**

No. Donation of organs and tissues costs nothing to the donor's family or estate. Bone marrow expenses are paid by the recipient's medical coverage plan. Ask your employer about paid time off to donate marrow.