

State of Ohio

Donor Registry Enrollment Form

Notice to Declarant

The purpose of the Donor Registry Enrollment Form is to document your wish to donate organs, tissues and/or corneas at the time of your death.

This form should be completed only if you have **NOT** already registered as a donor with the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) when renewing a driver license or state identification card; online through the BMV website; or previously through a paper form. If you wish to make an anatomical gift or modify an existing registration this form must be sent to the BMV to ensure your wishes for organ, tissue and/or cornea donation will be honored. This document will serve as your authorization to recover the organs, tissue and/or corneas indicated at the time of your death, if medically possible.

In submitting this form your wishes will be recorded in the Ohio Donor Registry maintained by the BMV and will be accessible only to the appropriate organ, tissue and cornea recovery agencies at the time of death. You are encouraged to share your wishes with your next of kin so they are aware of your intentions to be a donor.

This form can also be used to amend or revoke your wishes for donation. The completed form should be mailed to:

Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles
Attn: Records Request
P. O. Box 16583
Columbus, OH 43216-6583

Frequently asked questions about organ, tissue and cornea donation are addressed on page three of this section. If you have more specific questions, contact information for the state's organ and tissue recovery agencies is also listed, and you are encouraged to contact them or visit their websites.

Organ and Tissue Donation in Ohio

One individual can save or improve the quality of life for people who suffer from organ failure, congenital defects, bone cancer, orthopedic injuries, burns, blindness and more. One organ donor can save up to 8 lives by donating heart, lungs, kidneys, pancreas, small intestine and liver. More than 123,000 Americans are on the national waiting list for a life-saving organ transplant; 3,400 in Ohio. Statistically, 18 people in the U.S. die every day while waiting for transplants. If you register as a donor, be sure to share the decision with your family members.

Who can become a donor? All individuals over the age of 15½ can register and give advance authorization for donation. Medical suitability for donation is determined at the time of death. If a minor dies before the age of 18, a parent can amend or revoke the donation decision.

Are there age limits for donors? People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential donors. Newborns as well as senior citizens have been organ donors. Medical condition at the time of death will determine what organs and tissues can be donated.

If I join the Donor Registry, will it affect the quality of medical care I receive at the hospital? No, doctors at hospitals are concerned with caring for the patient in front of them and are not involved with donation and transplantation. Every effort is made to save your life before donation is considered.

Will donation disfigure my body? Can there be an open casket funeral? Donation does not disfigure the body and does not interfere with or delay a funeral, including open casket services.

Are there any costs to my family for donation? The donor's family does NOT pay for the cost of the donation. All costs related to donation of organs, eyes and tissues are paid by the designated recovery agency.

Does my religion approve of donation? All major religions support organ, eye and tissue donation as an unselfish act of charity.

Can I sell my organs? No. The National Organ Transplant Act makes it illegal to sell human organs and tissue. Violators are subject to fines and imprisonment. Among the reasons for this rule is the concern of Congress that buying and selling of organs might lead to inequitable access to donor organs, with the wealthy having an unfair advantage.

How are organs distributed? Donor organs are matched to recipients through a federally-regulated system based on a number of factors including blood type, body size, medical urgency, time on waiting list and geographical location.

Can I be an organ and tissue donor and also donate my body to science? Total body donation takes precedence over organ and tissue donation. If you wish to donate your entire body, you must make arrangements with a medical school or research facility prior to your death. Medical schools, research facilities and other agencies study bodies to gain greater understanding of anatomy and disease mechanisms in humans. This research is also vital to saving and improving lives.

Does the registry authorize living donation? No, living donation is not authorized by the registry. It is possible to donate a kidney, or part of a liver or lung while alive, but that is arranged on an individual basis through specific transplant centers.

For more information on donation, contact one of the state's four federally designated organ procurement organizations:

Northeastern Ohio
LifeBanc
www.lifebanc.org
216.752.5433

Western Ohio
Life Connection of Ohio
www.lifeconnectionofohio.org
937.223.8223

Central and Southeastern Ohio
Lifeline of Ohio
www.lifelineofohio.org
800.525.5667

Southwestern Ohio
LifeCenter
www.lifepassiton.org
513.558.5555