



## Why should I register?

Your generosity can save as many as eight lives through organ donation, bring sight to others with cornea donations and improve yet another 75 lives or more through tissue donation. It takes only moments, yet means a second chance of a lifetime.



### Every 9 minutes

another person is added to the waiting list



### 17 people die everyday

because the organ they need is not donated in time



### Fellow Texans are in need

and your registration gives them hope



## 107,000

people are on the U.S. transplant waiting list



## 10,000+

Texans are waiting for a transplant



## 44%

of adults in Texas are not yet registered donors

## The power of your decision



### Up to 8 lives

can be saved when you donate your organs



### 2 People

may receive sight when you donate your corneas



### Up to 75 lives

can be saved and healed when you donate your tissues

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Who can register as a donor?**

Texans of any age can register to be a donor. Teens ages 15 – 17 can register to be a donor beginning when they apply for their learner's permit or first driver's license. Children under the age of 18 do not need parent permission to register, but a parent or guardian will need to affirm their decision if they have the opportunity to be a donor.

Once you're 18 years of age or older, your registration is legal authorization for donation to occur and your decision cannot be changed by another person. All Texans can register to be a donor, regardless of health conditions or background,

### **What does it mean to register as a donor?**

Registering to be a donor means you agree to donate your organs, eyes and tissues to help others in need after your death. It is a legal authorization for donation and if you are over the age of 18, your lifetime decision to be a donor cannot be overturned by another person. This ensures your decision will be honored.

### **Will registering to be a donor impact my medical care?**

Absolutely not. Saving a person's life is always the top priority for doctors, nurses, paramedics and emergency personnel, period. When you need medical care, every effort is made to save your life and no consideration is given to your donor registration status. It's only after lifesaving efforts have been exhausted that donation becomes an option.

### **Can I register as a donor if I'm not in perfect health?**

Absolutely! Anyone can register to be a donor, regardless of health conditions or background. Medical suitability is determined at the time of donation.

### **Does donation impact funeral plans?**

Funeral arrangements of your choice are possible, including an open casket funeral or viewing. The donor's body is respected throughout the process and carefully prepared so that donation itself does not interfere with funeral plans.

### **Are there any costs to me or my family if I'm a donor?**

No. All costs associated with organ, eye and tissue donation are covered by the recovery organization once death is declared and authorization for donation has been provided. Please note that the donor's funeral costs remain the responsibility of the family.

### **Does my religion support donation?**

All major religions support donation as a charitable and compassionate act that saves and enhances lives, or as a personal choice. We encourage you to talk with your spiritual leader or faith community if you're still looking for guidance.

### **Can the rich or famous get priority access to donated organs?**

No. Organs are matched based strictly on medical criteria and United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) policies to ensure equity. The goal is to reduce deaths on the transplant waiting list and match organs with the patient who is the sickest and best matches medically to the donor. Geography may be a factor because organs need to be transplanted as soon as possible following recovery, but celebrity or economic status is not.

### **How is Donate Life Texas funded?**

Donate Life Texas is solely funded by charitable contributions, including those made by Texans when applying for or renewing their state-issued driver's license or ID card. These funds are used to maintain the donor registry and continue public education efforts about the lifesaving importance of donation and registering as a donor.