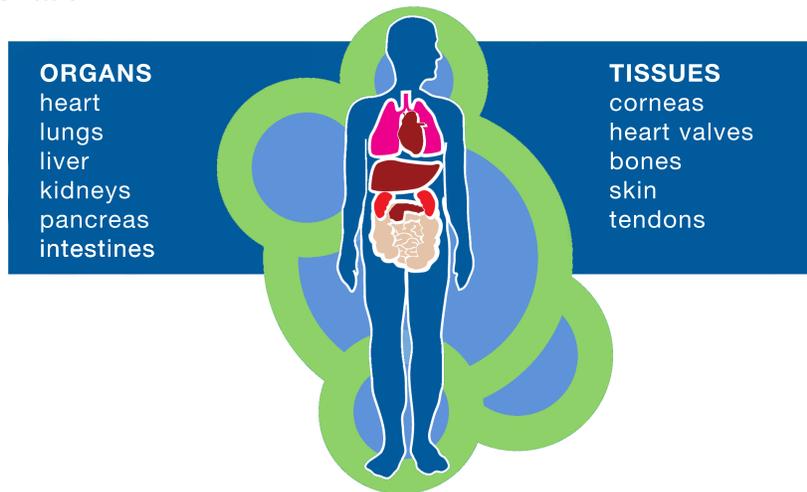




Thousands of people are waiting for a life saving or life enhancing organ, tissue or cornea transplant. When you apply for a driver's permit, driver's license, or state ID card, you will be asked whether or not you wish to register as an organ, eye and tissue donor. Your designation will be marked on the front of your license or ID card with a red heart.

If you register through the OMV in person, your wishes will be part of the organ, eye and tissue donor registry and also indicated on your driver's license. You may also register online at DonateLifeLA.org. Either method is legal documentation of your desire to save lives.

Louisiana's registry allows citizens to make legally binding decisions to be donors. Family consent is required only for minors. This makes it especially important for you to have a discussion with your family about your wishes regarding donation.



Organs and tissues that can be donated include heart, lungs, liver, kidney, pancreas, intestines, skin, heart valves, bone and connective tissue. For eye donation, the whole eye or the cornea can be donated. Organs are distributed for transplantation on a patient-based, fair, equitable system. Donors are treated with the greatest care and dignity throughout the donation process.

Here is some information to help you make an informed decision:

- Louisiana's registry allows citizens to make legally binding decisions to become donors. Drivers under the age of 17 can participate in this program and register their intent.

- **Anyone** can be a potential donor regardless of age, race, or medical history.
- You have the ability to **save 9 lives** and heal the lives of up to **50** people more through tissue donation.
- The level of medical care you receive in any hospital is **not affected** by your choice to register as an organ, eye and tissue donor. The recovery team is only called in after all attempts have been made to save your life.
- **All major religions approve** of organ, eye and tissue donation, and see it as an unselfish act of charity.
- There is no change in the appearance of the body after donation and no interference in funeral plans, including an open casket.
- There is **no cost** or payment to your family or your estate when you become a donor.
- It is **illegal to buy or sell organs** in the United States.
- All patients on the waiting list throughout the country are registered with the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) computer network. Organs are placed based on blood type, size, weight, severity of illness, time on the waiting list, and geography. **It is illegal to allocate organs based on fame, wealth, citizenship or political power.**
- Transplantation is a medically accepted treatment, and is not experimental. **Organ donation is not a search for the cure – it is the cure!**

Today there are nearly 116,000 patients waiting for this life saving gift and nearly 2,000 here in Louisiana. Every day 22 people die waiting for an organ, and every 10 minutes another name is added to the national waiting list. Choose to be an organ and tissue donor and tell your family about your decision.

For more information visit DonateLifeLA.org.

