



As Iowa's sole organ procurement organization, we facilitate both organ and tissue recovery and serve as the state's primary contact for organ, tissue, and eye donation. The donation process begins with a conversation. Use this guide to facilitate a discussion to help students understand the organ, tissue, and eye donation process. *Discussion can be done together as a class, or you can divide students into smaller groups of 2 or more to self-guide and ensure learning and participation.*

CONVERSATION STARTERS

Use the following questions and prompts to spark conversation and guide the discussion.

- What do you know about organ, tissue, and eye donation?
- What is the first question that comes to mind when you hear organ, tissue, and eye donation?
- What do you think are the biggest reservations people have about registering as a donor?
- Do you know anyone who has donated organs and/or tissues?
- Do you know anyone who has received a life-saving transplant?
- Where can you register as a donor?



Q & A SESSION

You can expand the discussion into a more specific Q & A session with your class. Ask your students the following frequently asked questions. After they share their responses, provide them with the correct answers. If the class is working in small groups, select a group leader to ask the questions and provide the answers.

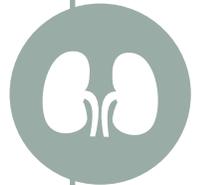


WHICH PARTS OF THE BODY CAN BE DONATED?

ORGANS: Kidneys (2) • Liver • Lungs (2) • Heart • Pancreas • Intestines

TISSUES: Bone Tissue • Heart Valves • Veins • Skin Tissue • Connective Tissue

EYES: Cornea



HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE WAITING FOR A TRANSPLANT IN THE U.S.?

Nationwide, there are over 100,000 people waiting for a life-saving transplant; more than 600 of those people are right here in Iowa.



WHO CAN REGISTER TO DONATE?

Every individual has the right to sign up to donate their organs, eyes, and tissues at the time of their death. Your health, religion, race and age will not disqualify you.



IF YOU HAVE A HEALTH CONDITION, CAN YOU REGISTER AS A DONOR?

All medical conditions are considered at the time of death, but most health conditions do not prevent donation. Medical advances now allow people with chronic conditions, cancer, HIV, and hepatitis to donate safely. Many times people rule themselves out because of health conditions even though they can still donate and help others. Your local organ procurement organization takes many steps to ensure only people who absolutely qualify can be considered for donation.



WHAT DOES JOINING THE DONOR REGISTRY MEAN?

When you register as an organ, eye, and tissue donor, you are making a legal decision* that will be honored after your death. It's important to talk with your family so they can be aware and prepared to honor your decision.

* Legal decision for individuals 18 and up



WHAT DOES MY RELIGION SAY ABOUT DONATION?

Your religious and spiritual beliefs will be respected, and your decision will be honored. In general, all major religions in the United States support organ, tissue, and eye donation and consider it a generous act of caring.



IS THERE A COST ASSOCIATED WITH DONATION?

There is no cost to your family or loved ones.



HOW DOES THE WAITING LIST WORK?

When it comes to waiting for a transplant, we are all created equal. Wealthy or famous individuals do not get bumped up higher on the national transplant waiting list.

These factors are used to determine the best candidate for an available organ:

Blood type • Body size • Severity of patient's medical condition

The patient's waiting time • Distance between the donor's hospital and the patient's hospital

Whether the patient is healthy enough for surgery



HOW MANY PEOPLE CAN A SINGLE DONOR HELP HEAL AND SAVE?

One person can potentially save and heal more than 75 lives through organ, tissue, and eye donation. In some cases, tissue donation can increase this number significantly.



WHAT IF MY FAMILY DOESN'T AGREE WITH DONATION?

Donor designation is a legal and binding decision for ages 18 and over. Legal guardians and parents of minors have the right to refuse donation even if a person under the age of 18 is a registered donor.



WHAT IF I DON'T REGISTER AS A DONOR?

If you don't decide prior to your death whether or not you want to become an organ, tissue, and eye donor, your loved ones will have the opportunity to make that decision on your behalf. Therefore, it is incredibly important to register and share your decision with your loved ones.



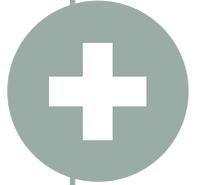
WHAT IF MY FAMILY WANTS AN OPEN CASKET?

Organ, tissue, and eye donors are heroes and are treated as such. The medical professionals who perform the recovery surgeries treat donors with the utmost respect, just like they would for any other patient. If you and your family are planning on an open casket funeral or viewing, these plans should not be affected by donation.



IS SAVING MY LIFE A PRIORITY EVEN IF I'M A REGISTERED DONOR?

Yes. If you are taken to the hospital after an accident or injury, it is the hospital's number one priority to save your life. Your status as a donor is not considered until every effort has been made to try to save your life. To be considered for donation, a patient must be on a ventilator and either declared brain dead or suffer cardiac death.



HOW DO I REGISTER AS A DONOR?

You can register as a donor online at iowadonornetwork.org, by mail, at the DMV when you get your permit or driver's license, when getting your hunting, fishing, or trapping license, or even through the iPhone Health app.



SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

To wrap up the discussion, pose the following questions for your students to share what they learned:

- What surprised you most about what we just learned?
- Is there any information that you still would like to receive to make a more informed decision?



NEED MORE INFORMATION OR WANT TO HOST A SPEAKER?

If you have any questions, need more information to guide an engaging discussion, or would like to request a speaker for your class, please feel free to contact us by email at contact@iadn.org

