

# Top 8 Frequently Asked Questions About Organ and Tissue Donation

## 1 What is the New York State Donate Life Registry?

The New York State Donate Life Registry is a confidential database of people who have authorized the donation of their organs, eyes, and/or tissues after their death.

## 2 Who can join the New York State Donate Life Registry?

Anyone age 16 and older can enroll in the New York State Donate Life Registry.

## 3 Am I too old or too sick to join the Registry?

No one is too old or too sick to enroll in the New York State Donate Life Registry. Doctors conduct a thorough evaluation of potential donors, including laboratory testing, to ensure donated organs and tissues are safe for transplant.

## 4 If I join the Registry, will my medical care be affected?

If you are sick or injured, the number one priority is to save your life. Hospitals, EMS, doctors, and nurses cannot access the Registry. Organ and tissue recovery agencies check a potential donor's registration status at the time of death to see if they were enrolled in the Registry.

## 5 What does my religion say about organ and tissue donation?

All major religions approve of organ and tissue donation and transplantation, viewing it as an act of love and charity. If you have questions or concerns, you should discuss them with your religious or spiritual leader.

## 6 Is there any cost to my estate or family for donating my organs, eyes, and tissues?

No, there are no costs to your estate or family for you to become a donor. Your family pays for your medical care and funeral arrangements, but never incur costs for the donation process. The transplant recipient, typically through their insurance, pays costs related to donation.

## 7 Will I be able to have an open-casket funeral if I donate my organs, eyes, and tissues?

Organ, eye, and tissue donation doesn't interfere with having an open-casket funeral. The donor's body is clothed for burial and treated with care and respect, so there are no visible signs of donation.

## 8 How can I enroll in the Registry at home?

You can find more information and enroll online at any time by visiting [donatelifenys.org/register](https://donatelifenys.org/register).