

How to Donate

You need to know that signing a donor card or your driver's license does not guarantee that your organs will be donated.

The best way to be sure that your wishes are carried out is to inform your family of your desire to donate.



One good way to have your family know your wishes is to show them your signed donor card or driver's license.

Hospitals get consent of the next of kin before removing organs. If your family knows you wanted to be a donor, it makes it easier for them to give their consent.

If you do not have next of kin or you doubt your family will agree to donate your organs, you can assign durable power of attorney to someone who you know will abide by your wishes.

Written by El'Jay DeShield, Public Affairs, WRTC

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Articles in this newsletter are not a substitute for the care and advice of medical professionals. When you have a question or need medical advice, diagnosis or treatment, consult your physician.

This newsletter is produced by Inova Health System in conjunction with your faith community. If you prefer not to receive this newsletter, please notify the appropriate personnel in your faith community.

Inova Health System is a not-for-profit health care system based in Northern Virginia that consists of hospitals and other health services including emergency and urgent care centers, home care, nursing homes, mental health, blood donor services, and wellness classes. Governed by a voluntary board of community members, Inova's mission is to improve the health of the diverse community we serve through excellence in patient care, education and research.



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For Your Health

April

2007

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April is

Donate

Life

Month

*Congregational
Health
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Inova
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Community
Health
Division*



YOU HAVE THE POWER TO DONATE LIFE

Abiding In the Shadow of Religion

Growing up as a little boy, my mother always taught me to have scripture verses at my "mouth tips" to call upon when needed. My favorite book in the Bible was Psalms, especially Psalm 91. Although we learned and recited many Bible verses every night during a family gathering or "prayer meeting," this particular chapter has stuck with me even to this day. I still can recite it word for word.

Psalms 91, verse 4 reads *"He shall cover thee with His feathers, and under His wings shall thou trust: His truth shall be thy shield and buckler."* KJV

When people are asked to consider donation of their organs, eye and tissues, or the organs of their loved one, they often misrepresent what is truth and what is used as a 'shield and buckler' to say "It is against my religion."

However, many organized religions support organ, eye and tissue donation and consider the donation as an act of charity and love. The real truth, the real shield and buckler, should lie in following God's teachings to do unto others as you would have others do unto you.

Written by El'Jay DeShield, Public Affairs Associate

Washington Regional Transplant Consortium

Someone in your congregation may be desperately waiting for an organ, eye or tissue transplant. Or they could be interested in becoming a donor.

Approximately 95,000 people are on the U.S. organ transplant waiting list, waiting for kidneys, livers, pancreases, intestines, hearts and lungs.

Higher rates of high blood pressure, diabetes and heart disease are seriously affecting certain population groups, leaving many people in need of organ transplants.

28,000 lives were saved last year as a result of the Gift of Life. One million people had their lives enhanced through tissue transplant. Thousands more regained the gift of sight, thanks to donated corneas.

The Washington Regional Transplant Consortium (WRTC) is the federally designated organ procurement organization for the metropolitan D.C. area.

It provides excellence and integrity in organ, eye and tissue donation and transplantation services. It also works to support donor families. WRTC can help your place of worship proclaim the good news that organ and tissue donation saves and enhances lives.

For more information, contact WRTC at: 1-866-Be-A-Donor 703.641.0100

www.beadonor.org

COMMON MYTHS



Myth. I'm not in the best health. Nobody would want my organs.

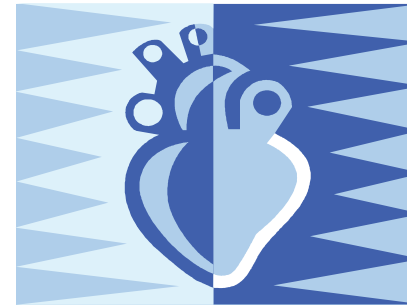
Reality. Very few medical conditions automatically disqualify you from donating organs. The decision to use an organ is based on strict medical criteria. It may turn out that certain organs are not suitable for transplantation, but other organs and tissues may be fine.

Myth. If I agree to donate my organs, my doctor or the emergency room staff won't work as hard to save my life. They'll remove my organs as soon as possible to save somebody else.

Reality. When you go to the hospital for treatment, doctors focus on saving **your** life — not somebody else's. You'll be seen by a doctor whose specialty most closely matches your particular emergency.

For more information about dispelling myths visit:

http://www.beadonor.org/myths_facts.cfm



Please visit the religious views section at www.BeADonor.org or call **1-866-Be-A-Donor** to learn about the many religions and faith groups that support organ, eye, and tissue donation as one of the highest expressions of compassion and generosity.

Be sure to speak with your own religious leader if you have questions or concerns.

Facts About Organ, Eye, and Tissue Donation

- ♥ Donation becomes an option only after all life-saving efforts have been made and death has been declared. Your commitment to donation will NOT interfere with your medical care.
- ♥ There is no cost to the donor's family or estate for donation. The donor family pays only for medical expenses before death and for funeral expenses.
- ♥ Donation should not delay or change funeral arrangements. An open casket service is possible.
- ♥ It is illegal to buy or sell organs and tissue for transplantation in the United States.
- ♥ Organs are distributed based upon medical information like blood type, body size, and tissue type matching through a national computer network operated by the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS). It is illegal to distribute organs based on non-medical information such as wealth, citizenship, or celebrity status. Tissue is distributed based upon patient need, availability, and medical criteria.
- ♥ Every organ and tissue donor can save and enhance the lives of up to 50 people.