

Wisconsin Donor Registry

Yes, I will

DONATE

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who may sign-up on the Wisconsin donor registry?

The Wisconsin donor registry allows anyone who is at least 15½ years of age and holds a Wisconsin driver's license or State identification card to register as an organ, tissue and eye donor.

2. Are there any age limits or health conditions that rule out donation?

Anyone can register to be a donor. At the time of death, donation professionals complete a comprehensive medical and social history and review the results of a number of lab tests to determine if a person is able to be a donor. People older than age 75 have donated and saved lives.

3. What does it mean to register?

Having your name included in the Wisconsin donor registry means that you have authorized the gift of your organs, tissues, and eyes upon your death. Registering indicates legal consent for donation. Your gift will be used to save and improve the lives of others through transplantation, therapy, research or education.

4. May I limit my donation?

You may amend your gift to include something other than all needed organs, tissues and eyes or to direct the gift for a particular person through other written documents. This includes your advanced directive or will, a statement in a power of attorney for health care document, or the statement on the back of your driver's license. Let your family know about this additional information so your wishes can be honored.

5. If I have an orange dot on my driver's license am I registered?

Your name is included in the donor registry if you received the orange donor dot at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) any time on or after March 29, 2010.

6. Can my family override my decision to donate?

Once you register as a donor, you have made a *record of gift* in accordance with Wisconsin state law. If you are over the age of 18, or are an emancipated minor, your decision may not be overridden by your family. If you are under age 18 and are not legally emancipated, your parents or legal guardians have the ability to overrule your decision. Donation professionals will present documentation of your inclusion in the registry to your family and work with them to honor that decision.

7. May I register to be a donor at the DMV?

Beginning March 29, 2010, your donation decision at the DMV will add your name to the registry and give legal authorization for donation. However, since you may not be scheduled to renew your license for some time, you should sign-up on the registry today by using the website at

www.YesIWillWisconsin.com. If you wish to continue to be listed on the registry as a donor, you will need to check the “yes” box on your application form each time you renew your license or state I.D. at the DMV.

8. How do you ensure that someone does not sign-up another person without his or her knowledge?
You must provide your full name, driver’s license or state ID number, and date of birth to sign-up on the Wisconsin donor registry. This information must exactly match what is contained on your driver’s license or State identification card record for the registration to be authorized. There are registries in place in almost all of other states, and there have not been reports of inappropriate registrations.

9. Does the registry allow me to sign up to be a marrow or living organ donor?
The Wisconsin donor registry identifies donors for organ, tissue and eye donation upon death. Please contact the following organizations for information about donating blood or bone marrow, or to donate an organ while living:

Blood Donation	The American Red Cross:	www.redcrossblood.org
	The BloodCenter of Wisconsin:	www.bcw.edu

Bone Marrow	National Marrow Registry:	www.marrow.org
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Living Donation	Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin:	www.chw.org
	Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hosp:	www.froedtert.com
	Aurora St. Luke’s Medical Ctr:	www.aurorahealthcare.org
	UW Hospital and Clinics:	www.uwhealth.org/livingdonor

10. What about donating my whole body for science?
Signing-up on the registry does not grant permission for your body to be donated to medical schools. Willed whole body donation programs are usually associated with teaching hospitals at major universities, and arrangements must be made directly with those institutions. Should you choose to consent to whole body donation, you will be unable to donate your organs, tissue or eyes for transplant.

11. How do people in other states sign up to be a donor? Is there a national registry?
There is no national registry. However, states may contact another state concerning the registry status of a potential donor from another state. All matters concerning organ, tissue and eye donation are under the jurisdiction of each state’s respective laws.

12. What if I do not have access to the internet or a computer?
You may submit a written request to register as a donor to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles, Qualifications and Issuance, Rm. 801, P.O. Box 7999, Madison, WI 53707-7999. You may also sign-up online using the internet at your local library.

13. How do I know if my registration was successful?
You will receive one email immediately after you submit your request and another confirming your registration if you provide an email address.

14. Who is responsible for administering the Registry?
The Wisconsin Donor Registry is authorized by s. 157.06(20) Stats. and maintained by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

15. How can I be sure my information is kept confidential?

The Wisconsin donor registry adheres to the strictest and most up-to-date guidelines to keep all personal information confidential. Every precaution is in place to protect the information.

16. What if I change my mind and don't want to be a donor?

You may remove your name from the Wisconsin donor registry at any time. Go to YesIWillWisconsin.com and click on the DONATE circle. Follow the instruction to remove your name from the registry. You may also submit your request in writing to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles, Qualifications and Issuance, Rm. 801, P.O. Box 7999, Madison, WI 53707-7999.

17. If I have been told I cannot donate blood, does that rule me out for organ, tissue and eye donation?

Medical criteria for organ, tissue and eye donation change on a regular basis and are determined by need. You should not rule yourself out for any reason. Should you ever be in the situation where you could donate, donation professionals will check the registry and carefully review your medical and social history.

18. Will there be paperwork for my family to complete even if I am registered as a donor?

When individuals sign up on the donor registry, they authorize donation. This means their families will not be required to give authorization. There may be additional questions in the donation process which do require the assistance of the family.

GENERAL QUESTIONS ABOUT DONATION

19. What is organ, tissue and eye donation?

Donation is the process of recovering organs, tissues and eyes from a deceased person and transplanting them into others in order to save or improve the lives of those in need. Up to eight lives can be saved through organ donation, and many others may be improved through eye and tissue donation. Donated organs and tissue that are not suitable for transplant or therapeutic purposes may be used to improve lives through research and education.

20. How many people need donated organs, tissue and eyes?

There are more than 1,600 people on waiting lists for organ transplants in Wisconsin and nearly 110,000 nationwide. Hundreds are waiting for a cornea transplant to restore their sight. Thousands more wait for the chance to live without pain through a bone or soft tissue transplant.

21. What organs, tissues and eyes may be donated?

There are eight organs that may be transplanted: heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas and small intestine. Donated tissue is used to treat burn patients, serious abrasions, hernia repairs and in reconstructive surgeries for patients such as breast cancer survivors. Bone is used in orthopedic surgeries to facilitate the healing of fractures or to prevent amputation. Heart valves are used to replace defective valves. Tendons are used to repair torn ligaments on knees or other joints. Veins are used in surgeries. Corneas can restore sight to the blind.

22. If I am registered as a donor, will my medical care be affected?

Medical and nursing care is not affected in any way by your status as a registered donor. Every attempt is made to save your life. The medical team that works to save your life is a completely separate team from the donation professionals who recover organs and tissues.

23. If I am a donor, what kind of tests do they conduct on my body?

Once death has been declared and authorization is verified through the donor registry, donation professionals must conduct blood tests and other standard medical tests to determine whether or not the patient is suitable to be a donor.

24. How do people get added to the transplant waiting list?

The process of joining the National Organ Transplant Waiting List begins with a physician referral and an evaluation at a transplant center. The transplant center evaluates patients to determine whether they may be suitable candidates for a transplant.

25. Can organs be sold?

Buying and selling organs for the purpose of transplantation is illegal in the United States and most countries throughout the world.

26. Who pays for organ, tissue and eye recovery?

All costs associated with organ, tissue and eye recovery are assumed by the recovery organizations. These costs are then reimbursed by transplant centers that, in turn, bill the private and/or public insurance plans of transplant recipients. Donor families are responsible for hospital expenses incurred by the patient before donation, and funeral expenses. There is no addition cost to the donor's family for organ, tissue and eye donation.

27. What if my family members are opposed to donation?

Anyone over the age of 18 (or an emancipated minor) that has signed-up on the Wisconsin donor registry has made a *record of gift* that may not be overridden. However, a *record of gift* of an unemancipated minor may be overturned by his or her parents or legal guardian. Knowing the donation decision of a loved one ahead of time may provide some relief to a grieving family. Please share your wishes with your family.

28. Does my religion support organ, tissue and eye donation?

With very few exceptions, religions throughout the world support or permit donation, with most faiths considering donation as a humanitarian act of giving.

29. Does donation affect funeral arrangements?

The donor's body is treated with great respect and dignity throughout the donation process. Recovery agencies work closely with funeral service providers to ensure that there are no untimely delays. Families may choose to have an open-casket funeral and a viewing if they wish.

30. Do the donor and recipient families meet?

The identity of all parties is kept strictly confidential. However, donation agencies may arrange anonymous correspondence between donor families and recipients, and then assist those who wish to meet each other.

31. Where can I learn more about organ, tissue and eye donation?

For more information on donation, you may go to www.DonateLifeWisconsin.org or www.DonateLife.net.