



Frequently Asked Questions About Donation and the Colorado Organ & Tissue Donor Registry

What does it mean to join the Colorado Organ & Tissue Donor Registry?

Being on the Donor Registry means that you have elected to have all of your organs and tissues made available for transplant at the time of your death. Sometimes, for medical reasons, organs and tissues cannot be transplanted.

- Your family will be informed of your decision to be an organ and tissue donor at the time of your death and will be asked to provide information about your medical and social history.
- Restrictions to your gift can be made by visiting www.ColoradoDonorRegistry.org. However, it is not necessary to restrict your gift for reasons of age or medical history. (Medical suitability can only be determined at the time of death.)
- Enrollment in the Donor Registry is not the only way to be a donor. If you decide to be a donor, but prefer not to join the Registry, it is important to tell your family about your decision. At the time of your death, your family will be contacted to make the decision to donate on your behalf.

What is the Donor Registry?

The Colorado Organ & Tissue Donor Registry is a secure and confidential database listing everyone who has indicated their decision to be an organ and tissue donor. Donor Alliance, a nonprofit organization that facilitates organ and tissue donation in Colorado, maintains the Registry.

Why is it important to join the Registry?

It is important to join the Registry because it provides timely information about your decision to be a donor and guarantees that your decision will be known at the time of your death.

How can I join the Registry?

You can join by saying "yes" to donation when obtaining or renewing a drivers license or state identification card at any of the more than 80 Colorado driver license offices statewide. You can also join at public events, health fairs, or by calling 303-380-4802 or 888-256-4386. You may also enroll online at www.ColoradoDonorRegistry.org.

Who may join the Registry and become an organ and tissue donor?

Anyone can join the Donor Registry. Those under 18 years old can join with the consent of a parent or legal guardian.

If I agree to donation on my driver license, do I still need to join the Registry?

No, if there is a "Y" or heart symbol on the front of the license or ID then you are already in the Registry. However, if you have only signed the back of your license you are not automatically in the Registry and would need to join online, by phone, by fax, or at a donor registry drive.

Who has access to the Registry?

At the time of death, only official organ and tissue recovery agencies have access to the Registry. The only information available to these agencies is that which confirms a person's identity and decision to be a donor. Colorado law prohibits Registry information from being sold or shared with any company or government agency.

Frequently Asked Questions

(Continued)

How is the Registry information used and should I tell my family about my decision?

The donor's family will be notified at the time of their loved one's death and informed of their decision to be an organ and tissue donor. The family will be asked to provide information about their loved one's social and medical history. It is important that you communicate your donation decision to your family so they can help honor and respect your choice.

Which organs and tissue can be donated?

Organs that can be donated are the heart, kidneys, lung, liver, pancreas, and small intestines. Among the tissues that can be donated are corneas, bone, bone marrow, heart valves, tendons, saphenous veins, skin, fascia (muscle covering), and cartilage.

Is there an age limit to being a donor?

No. Anyone of any age can be a donor. So it is most important to register your decision.

Would chronic health problems make me ineligible for donation?

No. One's health condition does not automatically rule out donation – even those with cancer or diabetes can be a donor. Medical suitability is determined at the time of death.

Does my religion support organ and tissue donation?

Yes. All major religions approve of organ and tissue donation and consider it a gift, an act of charity. Many religions have position statements about donation.

Does donation disfigure the body?

No. Donation neither disfigures the body nor changes the way it looks in a casket. There can be an open casket funeral after donation.

Are there any costs to my family for donation?

No. Donation costs nothing to the donor's family or estate.

Will my decision to become an organ and tissue donor affect the quality of my medical care?

No. Organ and tissue recovery takes place only after all life-saving efforts have been exhausted and death has been legally declared. The doctors working to save your life are entirely separate from the medical team involved in recovering organs and tissues.

Can I be a donor without being in the Registry?

Yes. Enrollment in the Registry is not an absolute requirement for donation. If you decide to be a donor, but prefer not to join the Registry, it is important to tell your family about your decision. However, telling your family about your decision *and* joining the Registry is still the best action to take.

Can I take my name out of the Registry if I change my mind later?

Yes. To remove yourself from the Donor Registry you may: 1) call 303-380-4802 or 888-256-4386 to request a removal form; 2) fill out the online removal form at www.ColoradoDonorRegistry.org; or 3) send in your request in writing to Colorado Donor Registry, 3773 Cherry Creek North Drive, Suite 601, Denver, CO 80209. Once your decision to be removed has been received you will be mailed a notification card affirming your decision. You are then asked to sign and return the card to confirm your decision.