



Common Myths and Facts About Organ Donation



- ▶ **Myth:** My family will have to pay if I become an organ donor.

Fact: There is no cost to a donor's family or estate for organ or tissue donation.

- ▶ **Myth:** I have a history of medical illness. No one could benefit from my donation.

Fact: Few medical conditions automatically disqualify you from donating organs. Clinical professionals decide at the time of death whether a donor is medically suitable for donation.

- ▶ **Myth:** I am too old to be a donor.

Fact: Age limits for organ donation no longer exist. The decision to use your organs is based on medical criteria only.

- ▶ **Myth:** I have heard that they take everything, even if I only want to donate my eyes.

Fact: You can specify which organs and tissues you want to donate on your donor card, or by telling your family which specific gifts you would like to donate.

- ▶ **Myth:** Organ donation disfigures the body. My family will not be able to have an open casket funeral if I become a donor.

Fact: Donated organs are removed surgically in a routine procedure similar to any other surgery. Donation does not interfere with customary funeral arrangements, such as open casket viewing.

- ▶ **Myth:** Doctors will not try hard to save my life if they know I am an organ donor.

Fact: The doctor or medical team treating you is completely separate from the transplant team. Organ donation can only be considered after brain death has been declared.



▶ **Myth: My religion does not approve of organ donation.**

Fact: All major organized religions approve of organ and tissue donation, considering it an act of charity.

▶ **Myth: I signed an organ donor card and I have “organ donor” noted on my driver’s license so that when my time comes, I can be an organ donor.**

Fact: Signing a donor card and a driver's license with an “organ donor” designation may not satisfy your state's requirements to become a donor. Be certain to take the necessary steps to be a donor and ensure that your family understands your wishes.

Sources: United Network for Organ Sharing Web site (www.unos.org) and The Gift of Life Donor Program Web site (www.donors1.org).

Are you an organ donor? _____

The need for organ donors is critical!

More than **100,000 men, women and children** currently need life-saving transplants.

In the United States, an **average of 18 people die** each day from the lack of available organs for transplant.

A single donor can make a big impact!

One donor has the potential to **save and enhance up to 50 lives** and take up to eight people off the transplant waiting list. Learn more at <http://organdonor.gov>.

About NTAf

For more than 26 years, NTAf has helped families and communities nationwide establish grassroots fundraising campaigns in honor of individuals facing transplantation. NTAf has helped families and communities raise more than \$64 million to pay for patients' uninsured medical and related expenses.

▶ Call **800.642.8399** or visit **www.NTAfFund.org** to learn more.