

MYTHS & 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 website (<http://unos.org>) and The Gift of Life Donor Program website (<http://donors1.org>).

ARE YOU AN ORGAN DONOR?

The need for organ donors is critical!

More than 110,000 men, women and children are on the wait list for a lifesaving transplant 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 HELPHOPELIVE™

For nearly 30 years, HelpHOPELive™ (formerly NTAF) has helped families and communities nationwide establish grass-roots fundraising campaigns in honor of individuals facing transplantation. HelpHOPELive™ has paid more than \$70 million for our patients’ out-of-pocket expenses.