

FACT VS FICTION

We encourage everyone to learn the facts and make your decision about organ, eye and tissue donation based on the correct information.

MYTH If doctors know I'm a registered organ, eye and tissue donor they won't work as hard to save me.

FACT Your life always comes first. If you are sick or injured and taken to a hospital, the doctors' and nurses' first priority is always to save your life. Donation is only considered after death has been declared.

MYTH I can't donate because I'm too old.

FACT There are no age limitations on who can donate. The decision on whether you can donate depends on your physical condition, not age.

MYTH I can't register as an organ, eye and tissue donor because I have too many medical conditions.

FACT Everyone should consider themselves a potential donor, regardless of previous medical conditions. Medical professionals evaluate each patient at the time of death and determine if your organs, eyes or tissues are medically suitable for donation.

MYTH If I agree to organ, eye and tissue donation, my family will have to pay for the medical costs.

FACT Your family will never have to pay for costs associated with organ, eye and tissue donation. Costs related to donation are paid by the recipient, usually through insurance, Medicare, or Medicaid.

MYTH If I donate my organs, eyes or tissues, I won't be able to have an open casket funeral.

FACT Throughout the process, a donor's body is treated with respect and dignity. Organs and tissues are recovered in a surgical procedure and all incisions are closed and dressed. Every effort will be made to minimize changes to the physical appearance.

MYTH Organ, eye and tissue donation is against my religion.

FACT All major organized religions in the U.S. support or encourage organ, eye and tissue donation and view it as an act of charity or love.

MYTH There is real danger of being heavily drugged and waking to find you have had one kidney (or both) removed for a black market transplant.

FACT This tale has been widely circulated over the Internet. There is absolutely no evidence of such activity ever occurring in the U.S. While the tale may sound credible, it has no basis in the reality of organ transplantation. Many people who hear the myth probably dismiss it, but it is possible that some believe it and decide against organ donation out of needless fear.



— Hope · Strength · Life —

MYTH Someone will pay to take my organs.

FACT

The National Organ Transplant Act (Public Law 98-507) makes it illegal to sell human organs and tissues in the United States. Violators are subject to fines and imprisonment. One reason Congress made this law was to make sure the wealthy do not have an unfair advantage for obtaining donated organs and tissues.

MYTH I registered as an organ, eye and tissue donor, but my family doesn't need to know.

FACT

Even if you are a registered donor, it is essential that your family know your wishes. Your family may be asked to sign a consent form in order for donation to occur.