

Most people support organ and tissue donation, but only half of Americans who can register as donors have done so. Why? Sometimes misunderstandings like these stop people from signing up.

If I'm a donor, doctors won't try to save me when I'm sick or injured.

A doctor's first priority when they are treating you is to save your life. Donation is only considered after all lifesaving options have been exhausted. Also, emergency medical teams are not involved in donation and transplantation.

I'm too old or too young to donate.

Infants, children and even individuals in their 90s have all successfully donated organs. In fact, Nebraska's oldest tissue donor was 105. Anyone 16 or older can register to be a donor. In the case of pediatric donation, a child's parent will be asked to consider the lifesaving opportunity for donation.

I have a medical condition that prevents me from being a donor.

There are no medical conditions that prevent someone from registering as an organ, tissue and eye donor. Every potential donor undergoes a thorough medical evaluation at the time of their death to determine if their organs and tissues are healthy and safe for transplant. There's no need to exclude yourself from the Donor Registry because of concern over a medical issue.

My family can't afford donation.

There is no cost to the donor's family for donation. All expenses related to donation are covered by the donation organization.

My religion prohibits donation.

Nearly all major religions in the United States support organ donation, but we encourage you to discuss concerns with your spiritual advisor.

I can't have an open-casket funeral if I donate.

A donor's body is treated with great respect and dignity throughout the donation process, and in almost all cases, a viewing or open-casket funeral is possible following donation.

My family can overrule my wishes to be a donor.

Like other medical directives, donor registration is a legal decision. If donation becomes a possibility for a registered donor between the ages of 16 and 18, parental approval is required.

REGISTER TO BE A DONOR:



At the DMV



LiveOnNebraska.org