

organ, eye & tissue donor awareness

Legacy Donor Foundation · organ, eye & tissue donor awareness



Donor  
Deck

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# Donor Deck

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LEGACY DONOR  
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*Louisiana*

*For more information about the Donor Deck, Legacy Donor Foundation, and our educational programs, or to order an additional copy of the Donor Deck, please email [info@organawareness.org](mailto:info@organawareness.org) or call (504) 558-8900.*

## About this Deck

The Donor Deck was designed as a tool to help teachers in a variety of settings begin discussions about donation with their students. Knowing how to start the conversation may be the most challenging part. The deck contains general Q&As, fast facts, myth vs. facts, and audio stories. The different sections of the deck can be used together or separately to help students understand different aspects of organ, eye, and tissue donation.

For more information or to order additional supplies, please email [info@organawareness.org](mailto:info@organawareness.org) or call (504) 558-8900.

## Ways to Play

### **Meaningful Conversations**

Many of our Q&A cards are more open-ended questions that would be great discussion starters for your class. Go through the deck and pick the cards you feel comfortable leading a discussion. Pose the question to the class to start a conversation about various topics on organ, eye, and tissue donation.

### **A Fact a Day Keeps the Myths at Bay**

Start or end your class period by reading one of the Q&A, Fast Fact, or Myth or Fact Cards. Feel free to use the story cards as well. Get the students involved by allowing a student to pick a card at random and present it to the class.

## Ways to Play

### **Divide and Conquer**

Divide the class into groups and divide the deck amongst those groups. You may shuffle the deck and distribute or distribute each section evenly. Allow the student group time to go through each card and discuss. Bring the class back together and have each group present one or two cards they discussed and what they talk about in their group. At the end, ask students what they learned from the exercise and ask them to reflect on why these topics are important.

## Ways to Play

### **Trivia**

Use our Q&A and Myth or Fact cards as trivia questions. Shuffle the cards and pick cards at random for trivia questions. Break the students into teams to play against each other or allow them to play as individuals.

### **Putting Numbers in Perspective**

Many of our Fast Fact cards contain statistics and numbers about organ, eye, and tissue donation that can be difficult for students to understand the magnitude. Assign students one of the facts and have them find an example to compare with the fact.

Ex: Nationally, more than 100,000 are waiting for a donor. That's enough to fill the Superdome 1.5 times.

## Ways to Play

### **Story Time**

Divide the class into groups and disperse the story cards to the various groups. Have the students listen to the stories multiple times. Then, have the students discuss the story they were provided and present the story to the class in their own words. Have the students share how the stories made them feel if they feel comfortable.

## Q&A

# Who can be a donor?

People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential deceased donors.



## Q&A

# How old do living donors have to be?

Living donors should be in good overall physical and mental health and be over 18 years of age.

## Q&A

# Does registering as a donor change my patient care?

Doctors work hard to save every patient's life, but sometimes there is a complete and irreversible loss of brain function where the patient is declared clinically and legally dead. Only then is donation an option.

## Q&A

# Does my religion support organ, eye and tissue donation?

All major religions support donation as a final act of compassion and generosity.

## Q&A

# Is there a cost to be an organ, eye and tissue donor?

There is no cost to the donor's family or estate for donation. The donor family pays only for medical expenses before death and costs associated with funeral arrangements.

## Q&A

Does my social and/or financial status play any part in whether or not I will receive an organ if I ever need one?

A national system matches available organs from the donor with people on the waiting list based on many factors, including: blood type, body size, how sick they are, distance from donor hospital and time on the list. Race, income, gender, celebrity, and social status are never considered.

## Q&A

How many lives  
can be saved by  
organ donation?

You can save  
up to 8 lives.

## Q&A

# What is another option for someone waiting for a kidney transplant?

A kidney from a living donor offers patients an alternative to years of dialysis and time on the national transplant waiting list (the living donor's remaining kidney will increase in size, doing the work of two healthy kidneys).

## Q&A

# Why register as a donor?

Your registration serves as a symbol of hope to patients waiting and sharing it with your family lets them know your decision.



## Q&A

# How do you pick who gets an organ?

A national computerized system, not an individual, matches donated organs with people on the waiting list.

## Q&A

# What is Brain Death?

Complete and irreversible  
loss of brain function  
when a patient is declared  
clinically and legally dead.

## Q&A

# Why are transplants important?

Transplants restore lives and return patients as active members of their families and communities.

## Q&A

Where can someone register as an organ, eye, and tissue donor?

At the OMV when applying for or renewing a driver's license or ID, online at [DonateLifeLA.org](https://www.donatelifeLA.org), LA Wallet app, or in the Health App on your iPhone under the Medical ID tab.

## Q&A

What organs are transplantable?

Kidneys (2), Liver,  
Lungs (2), Heart,  
Pancreas, and  
Intestines

## Q&A

# Why is tissue donation important?

Doctors use tissue to restore sight, cover burns, repair hearts, replace veins, and mend damaged connective tissue and cartilage.

## Q&A

# Why is learning about organ, eye, and tissue donation important?

Education on the subject is important so that you can make an informed decision when asked whether you want to register as an eye, organ, and tissue donor.

## Q&A

# Why is it important for people of every community to donate?

According to the United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS), transplants can be successful regardless of the race or ethnicity of the donor and recipient. The chance of longer-term survival may be greater if the donor and recipient are closely matched in terms of their shared genetic background.



## Q&A

# Will my family meet the person who received my organs?

Due to medical privacy laws, the identities of organ donors and recipients must be kept anonymous unless both parties agree to share that information.

## Q&A

How many children under 18 are on the national transplant waiting list?

Around 1,900 children under 18 are on the waiting list.

## Fast Facts

A single tissue donor can improve the lives of more than 75 people.

## Fast Facts

More than 100,000 people are waiting for lifesaving organ transplants in the United States.

## Fast Facts

Another person is added to the national transplant waiting list every 9 minutes.

## Fast Facts

Sadly, more than 7,000 people die each year (on average 20 people each day—almost one person each hour) because the organs they need are not donated in time.

## Fast Facts

Over 80% of individuals on the transplant waiting list are waiting for a kidney.

## Fast Facts

11% of patients waiting are in need of a liver. Living donation of part of the liver can help these patients.



## Fast Facts

Each year more than 2.5 million tissue transplants take place and the surgical need for donated tissue is steadily rising.

## Fast Facts

Around 1,900 children under the age of 18 are on the transplant waiting list in the U.S.

## Fast Facts

More than 66,000 cornea transplants take place annually to help restore sight.

## Fast Facts

More than 1,700  
children receive  
transplants each year.

## Fast Facts

According to Donate Life America, while 95 percent of US adults support organ donation, only 60 percent are actual registered donors. By signing up as an organ donor, you can save lives.

## Fast Facts

The liver is the only organ able to regenerate itself. After a living donor donates part of their liver, the liver will regenerate and regain full function in both the donor and recipient.

## Fast Facts

More than 165 million people are registered organ, eye and tissue donors nationally.

## Fast Facts

There are currently more than 2,000 people in Louisiana waiting for life-saving organ transplants.



## Fast Facts

Greater diversity in the donor population can lead to increased access to transplantation for all and the chance of longer-term survival.

## Myth or Fact

“Rich or famous people get transplants faster.”

### Myth.

Race, income, gender, celebrity and social status are never considered.

## Myth or Fact

“Doctors won’t save my life if they know I am an organ donor.”

### Myth.

In an emergency, it is the entire medical team’s first priority to save the life of their patient, and they will not check to see if you are an organ donor. Doctors work hard to save the patient’s life, but sometimes there is a complete and irreversible loss of brain function. The patient is declared clinically and legally dead. Only then is donation an option.

## Myth or Fact

“The size of the organ is taken into account when matching donors to recipients.”

### Fact.

Very small children most often receive donations from other young people—although older children and adults can also be a good match.

## Myth or Fact

“I have a medical condition, so I can't register.”

### Myth.

Anyone can register regardless of his or her medical history. A medical evaluation is done by donation professionals at the time of death to determine eligibility. If it is something you believe in, let the doctors make that decision when the time comes!

## Myth or Fact

“I decide which organs and tissues I want donated.”

### Fact.

After registering as a donor, you can go online to specify your donation preferences.

## Myth or Fact

“I can't change my mind about being a registered organ, eye & tissue donor after I've registered.”

### Myth.

You can remove your registration, update your personal information, or specify more detailed donation preferences at any time.

## Myth or Fact

“Blind or visually impaired individuals can donate their corneas.”

### Fact.

The cause of blindness doesn't always involve cornea; some of the most common causes of blindness originate in the retina or macula. In those instances, the healthy corneal tissue could be donated to a patient suffering from blindness of the cornea and restore their sight.



## Myth or Fact

“You can buy an organ.”

### Myth.

In the United States, it is illegal to buy or sell organs and tissue for transplantation.

## Myth or Fact

“A donor insignia has to be printed on my license to indicate I am a registered donor.”

### Myth.

You do not have to have it printed on your license to be registered. The national and state registries are checked at the time of a person's death, regardless of if it is printed on his or her license. The insignia on a person's license or ID card is simply a reminder for the individual, not for medical professionals.

## Myth or Fact

“If I donate my organs, I will not be able to have an open casket funeral.”

### Myth.

An open casket funeral is possible for organ, eye, and tissue donors. Donation will not impact any other funeral arrangements either.

Inspiring Stories

# Donor Story



Inspiring Stories

# Donor Family



## Inspiring Stories

# Waiting for a transplant



Inspiring Stories

# Transplant Recipient



Inspiring Stories

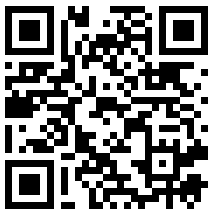
# Transplant Recipient





Inspiring Stories

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Inspiring Stories

# Louisiana Cares

