



FACTS ABOUT ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION

The need is critical. Each year the number of organs donated for transplant in the U.S. falls tragically short of the need. Sadly, 18 Americans die every day awaiting transplant.

Virtually anyone is a potential donor. Most organ and tissue donors are healthy people who have suffered from a life-ending trauma to the brain and are declared brain dead. Under certain conditions, donation may also be an option for families who choose to discontinue mechanical support for a loved one who will be declared a cardiac death. One donor can potentially save or enhance the lives of more than 25 people.

The vast majority of religious groups support donation as a charitable act of giving. Most religious groups support donation as the highest gesture of humanitarianism.

Organ and tissue donation does not disfigure the body. Organs and tissues are recovered in a dignified surgical procedure, and the body is carefully restored. Donation does not interfere with customary funeral arrangements.

It is illegal to buy or sell organs and tissue in the U.S. Federal law mandates that neither the donor nor his or her heirs may receive payment for donating organs and tissues.

There is no cost to donate organs or tissues. There is no cost to the donor's family or estate for the donation of organs or tissue. Costs associated with the recovery of organs and tissue, laboratory testing and other donation services are normally covered by the recipients and/or their medical insurance companies.

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