



National Donor Sabbath

November 15 – 17, 2019

Frequently Asked Questions, Talking Points and Statistics

What is National Donor Sabbath?

National Donor Sabbath is observed annually, two weekends before Thanksgiving, from Friday through Sunday. This three-day observance seeks to include the days of worship for major religions practiced in the United States. During National Donor Sabbath, faith leaders from many religions, with donor families, transplant recipients, and donation and transplantation professionals, participate in services and programs to *educate the public about the need* for donation and the *importance of registering one's decision* to be an organ, eye and tissue donor.

What are the benefits of registering as an organ, eye and tissue donor?

- Registering your decision to be a donor relieves your family from the burden of making this important decision on your behalf during a time of trauma and loss.
- Knowing that you can give someone else a chance to live a healthy, productive life is the greatest gift of all.
- A single donor can save up to 8 lives through organ donation, and improve the lives of as many as 75 through tissue and cornea donation.
- Donation is a consolation to the donor family in knowing that their loved one passed life on to others.

Is there a cost to the 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.

Am I too old or sick to be a donor?

- People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential donors. Your medical condition at the time of death will determine what organs and tissue can be donated.

Does my place of worship support organ, eye and tissue donation?

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

Does donation affect funeral plans?

- An open casket funeral is possible for organ, eye and tissue donors. Through the entire donation process, the body is treated with care and respect. Funeral arrangements can continue as planned following donation.

How can I register to pass life on through organ, eye and tissue donation?

- Register your decision to be a donor at [PassLifeOn.org](https://www.passlifeon.org), at your local DMV, or when registering to vote in New York State. You can also register when enrolling for health benefits through the New York State of Health Insurance Exchange.
- Always remember: it is important to tell your family members that you have registered as an organ and tissue donor. That way, they will be aware of your decision in the event something happens to you.

What can I do to increase organ, eye and tissue donation in my community?

- Tell your family and friends about your decision to pass life on through the gift of donation. Ask them to get the facts, and consider registering their decision, too.
- Go to www.donorrecovery.org for tips and tools for educating members of your community about the lifesaving gift of donation and transplantation.

Donation and Transplantation Statistics

- **36,500** patients began new lives in 2018, thanks to organ transplants (*about 82% from deceased donors and the remaining 18% from living donors*).
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- **113,000** men, women and children await lifesaving organ transplants. More than **1,000 of them are 10 years old or younger**.
 - About **58%** of patients awaiting lifesaving transplants are minorities.
 - Another person is added to the nation's organ transplant waiting list **every 10 minutes**.
 - Sadly, over **8,000** people die each year – about **22** people each day, and almost **1** every hour - because the organs they need are not donated in time.
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- The average waiting time for a kidney from a deceased donor is **3 to 5 years**. A kidney from a living donor offers patients an alternative to years of dialysis and time on the national transplant waiting list*.
- **11%** of patients waiting are in need of a liver. **Living donation of part of the liver** is an option for these patients; the remaining portion will regenerate and regain full function. Partial lung, intestine and pancreas living donation are possible as well.

- More than **31%** of all deceased donors are age **50 or older**. More than **7%** are age **65 or older**.
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- Each year, there are approximately **30,000** tissue donors and more than **1 million** tissue transplants; the surgical need for donated tissue is steadily rising.
 - A single tissue donor can help more than 75 people.
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- **48,000** patients have their sight restored through corneal transplants each year.
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- More than **145 million** people, approximately **58%** of the U.S. adult population, are registered organ, eye and tissue donors.
- To register your decision to save and heal lives, visit PassLifeOn.org.

Statistics from Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network and Donate Life America