

Before filling out this form, check your driver’s license or ID card. If there is a ❤️ on the front, you are already enrolled in the Organ & Tissue Donor Registry and there is no need to submit this form unless your information has changed.

- ☐ Yes, I want to be an organ, eye and tissue donor. By signing my name below I am confirming my desire to have my name entered into the Donor Registry.
- ☐ I already have a ❤️ on the front of my driver’s license and would like to update my record.

Please print the following information:

Full Name: _____
[FIRST MIDDLE LAST]

Mailing Address: _____
[STREET OR POST OFFICE BOX]

[CITY STATE ZIP]

Phone: () _____ ☐ Male
Date of Birth (required): _____ ☐ Female
Driver’s License or
State ID Number (required): _____

Joining the Donor Registry means you have elected to save lives by donating your organs and tissues at the time of your death. If there are specific organs and tissues you do not wish to donate, write them here (single restrictions; no narrative):

State law prohibits Registry information from being sold or shared with any company or government agency. Organs are distributed according to national regulations.

Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Signature
[IF ENROLLEE IS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE]

Date

Colorado state statutes **require** your signature to verify your desire to have your name entered into the Donor Registry.

MAIL TO:
Colorado Donor Registry
c/o Donor Alliance
720 South Colorado Blvd. [Donor Alliance]
Suite 800-N
Denver, CO 80246

Get the Facts

You have the power
to Donate Life.



Colorado

Register to be an organ, eye and tissue donor.

Organ, eye and tissue donation provides a life-changing opportunity to give the ultimate gift — the gift of life.

Transplantation is one of the most remarkable success stories in the history of medicine. It provides hope to the tens of thousands of people with organ failure and millions of people in need of healing tissue to treat blindness, injury or disease.

Transplants offer patients a new chance at healthy and productive lives, returning them to their families, friends and communities. But transplantation requires the commitment of organ, eye and tissue donors to save and heal lives. Unfortunately, the need for donors is much greater than the number of people who donate.

The Donation Process

Organ, eye and tissue donation becomes an option only after all lifesaving efforts have been exhausted and death has been declared. When a patient arrives at a hospital with a severe brain injury and meets clinical criteria, the hospital contacts Donor Alliance, the organ procurement organization serving Colorado and most of Wyoming. While the hospital continues lifesaving efforts, Donor Alliance determines medical suitability and whether the patient is a registered organ and tissue donor. Donor Alliance and the hospital staff collaborate to ensure that the family is cared for and offered the appropriate donation option should death be declared.

Colorado is a first person consent state, meaning that when a person registers to be an organ and tissue donor, he or she is making an advanced directive that will be honored at the time of death, if eligible to be a donor. An individual’s documented decision to donate takes priority over the family’s preferences. If the patient is not a registered donor, the

The donor and family
are treated with
the utmost care
and respect.



“Thanks to my donors, I’ve been given two chances at life.”
— Colin, two-time liver recipient

family considers donation options and the donation process proceeds only after the family has granted authorization.

Donated organs and tissues are recovered by highly-trained professionals in a surgical environment. Strict guidelines are followed to ensure that the donor is free of transmissible disease. The donor and family are treated with the utmost care and respect.

What can be donated?

Organs that can be donated include the heart, liver, lungs, kidneys, pancreas and small intestine. Tissues that can be donated include bones, skin, tendons, heart valves, veins and corneas. Corneas restore sight, heart valves repair cardiac defects and skin grafts help burn patients heal.

Tissue Donation

More than one million lifesaving and healing tissue transplants are performed each year. You are likely to have a neighbor, friend or even a family member who has received a tissue transplant.

Tissue donation is an option for most individuals, regardless of age and is often possible even when organ donation is not. A history of cancer, diabetes or other illness or injury does not necessarily prohibit tissue donation.

Unlike organs, which must be transplanted within hours of donation, most tissue can be preserved for later use. Tissue is kept in facilities called tissue banks to be supplied to physicians when needed for their patients.

Each year, the lives of about **1.5 million** people are saved or healed through organ, eye and tissue donation.

More than **2,200 people** in Colorado and Wyoming are currently in need of a lifesaving organ transplant.

Nationally, **more than 113,000 people** are in need of organ transplants. **Every 10 minutes**, a new name is added to the waiting list.



You have the power to Donate Life.

Register to be an organ, eye and tissue donor today.

It's about living. **It's about life.**

The Facts

Many myths exist about organ, eye and tissue donation. Get the facts so you can make an informed decision and register to be a donor.

- One person can save up to eight lives through organ donation and can save or heal more than 100 lives through tissue donation.
- Each person's medical condition is evaluated at the time of death to determine what organs and tissues are viable for donation. People living with chronic diseases or those who have a history of cancer can still join the donor registry.
- The first priority of a medical professional is to save lives when sick or injured people come to the hospital. Doctors and nurses involved in a patient's care before death are not involved in the recovery or transplantation of donated organs and tissues.
- Severity of illness, time spent waiting, blood type and match potential are the factors that determine a person's place on the organ transplant waiting list. Income, race and social status are never taken into account during the organ allocation process.
- Costs associated with recovering and processing organs and tissues for transplant are never passed on to the donor family. The family is only responsible for medical expenses incurred before death is declared and expenses involving funeral arrangements.

- Regardless of a donor's vision or the existence of cataracts and other conditions, corneas have the potential to restore sight to a person with corneal blindness.
- Donor Alliance treats each donor with the utmost respect and dignity, allowing a donor's body to be viewed in an open casket funeral.
- It is possible to donate life to others as a living kidney, partial liver, lung, intestine or pancreas donor.
- In the United States, it is illegal to buy or sell organs and tissue for transplantation.

The Facts on Race

Some diseases of the kidneys, heart, lungs, pancreas and liver are more prevalent in minority populations, meaning these patients are more likely to be in need of an organ transplant. Though minority communities make up only 36 percent of the U.S. population, African American, Latino and other minorities account for more than half of the patients waiting for organ transplants.

While race and ethnicity does not affect compatibility in tissue transplantation and typically is not a major factor in organ transplantation, kidney matches made within racial and ethnic groups have proven to have higher levels of compatibility. Minority populations in need of transplants remain significantly higher than the number of minority donors. That is why it is particularly important for people in minority communities to register their decision.

The Facts on Religion

All major religions in the United States support organ, eye and tissue donation and view it as a selfless act of charity and goodwill. To see a complete list of the major religions practiced in the United States and their position on donation, please visit **DonorAlliance.org**.

You Can Make a Difference



Join the 67 percent of people in Colorado who have already said yes to being organ, eye and tissue donors and become one of the more than 105 million Americans who have designated their decision to save lives.

- Sign up online on the Donor Registry at **DonateLifeColorado.org** or by calling (888) 256-4386.
- Say "yes" when obtaining or renewing your driver's license or state ID card at the driver's license office or when renewing online at **Colorado.gov/VROOM**.
- Complete and return the registry form on the back of this brochure.

Tell your family **today** about your decision to save lives.

 **DONOR ALLIANCE**
Organ & Tissue Donation

720 South Colorado Blvd., Suite 800-N
Denver, CO 80246
(303) 329-4747 • (888) 868-4747
www.DonorAlliance.org

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 [@DonateLifeCO](https://twitter.com/DonateLifeCO)



"If it weren't for someone making the decision to donate life, I would not have my son."

— Lisa, mother of Gabriel, heart recipient



"Don't take your organs to heaven. Heaven knows we need them here."
— Connor's favorite quote, two-time heart recipient



"After my kidney transplant I felt I was given a new lease on life."

— Archie, kidney recipient



"I am fortunate and grateful that two people in this world, who decided to say 'yes' to donation, were able to help me in a time of need."

— Heather, bone and tendon recipient