

How you can help

Each year, organ transplants give hundreds of Michigan residents a new chance at life. Thousands more benefit from tissue and cornea donations.



For more information, contact:

Michigan Department of State
www.Michigan.gov/sos
888-SOS-MICH (888-767-6424)

Gift of Life Michigan
www.giftoflifemichigan.org
866-500-5801

Eversight Michigan
www.eversightvision.org
800-247-7250



You can save a life

Become an organ,
tissue and eye donor



Secretary of State Ruth Johnson is joined by heart recipients Ryan, Rebekah and Izabel.

Information about the Michigan Organ Donor Registry

When you say "yes" to organ donation, you'll receive a heart symbol for your driver's license or state I.D. card.

How to get your heart symbol:

- Tell the branch clerk you wish to be an organ donor.
- Sign up on the Michigan Organ Donor Registry at www.Michigan.gov/sos.
- Please note: If you've added your name to the registry in the past but don't have your heart symbol, please sign up again. This will update your donor registration.

One person can help save and improve the lives of 50 others. You can donate your organs (heart, liver, lungs, kidneys, intestines and pancreas) and tissues (corneas, bone, skin, heart valves, veins and soft tissues).

Save a life. Join the Donor Registry.

Anyone can join.

Anyone can join the Donor Registry, regardless of their health or lifestyle history. After death, a medical official determines what can be used to help others. Advances in medicine continue to allow more people to donate, even people with diabetes, cancer or other serious illnesses.

No age restrictions.

There are no age restrictions to join the registry. Minors may register, with or without parental consent. However, until they turn 18, their parents make the final decision about donation.

Get your heart.

Signing the back of your driver's license or state ID doesn't add your name to the Donor Registry. To get a heart donor symbol on your license or ID card, go online to www.Michigan.gov/sos or visit a Secretary of State office.

Does it cost anything to be a donor?

There is no cost to the donor, his or her family or estate.

Can a donor have an open casket funeral?

Yes. Through the entire donation process, your body is treated with care, respect and dignity.

Will medical staff do everything possible to save my life if I am a registered donor?

Yes, saving your life is their No. 1 priority. By law, the ambulance crew, emergency room staff, doctors and specialists treating you do not have anything to do with the transplantation process.

Will donation delay my funeral arrangements?

Donation may briefly extend the time frame from 12 to 24 hours. Gift of Life and Eversight Michigan work closely with funeral homes and families to keep them informed.

Can I choose which organs I donate?

Joining the Michigan Organ Donor Registry gives consent for all usable organs and tissues. However, people who want to limit their gift may create a separate statement indicating specific organs or tissues. They then keep this in their own possession.

Can I remove myself from the Donor Registry?

Yes, please contact Gift of Life Michigan.

Do I need to tell my family my wishes?

If you are 18 years or older, your decision to be an organ, tissue and eye donor will be upheld according to Michigan law. Please share your decision with family members so they are aware of your wish to be a donor.

Will my name be released as a donor?

How will officials know who I am?

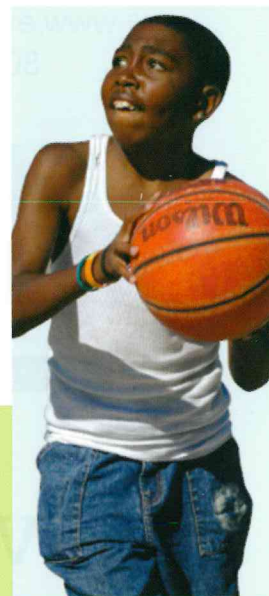
No, your information is protected under state and federal law. Donation is a medical procedure and every death in a Michigan hospital is reported to Gift of Life. The Donor Registry is checked to see if the individual has documented his or her wish to be a donor.

Will my organs go out of state if I'm a donor?

Organs are typically offered first to transplant centers in Michigan, but if there are no suitable candidates, the organs will then be offered to the Great Lakes region, and then to the rest of the nation.

If I donate my body to science, can I donate my organs?

Some medical institutions that accept bodies for scientific research will also allow organ donation. You'll need to check with a specific program for its requirements.



Ja'Von
Heart recipient
Detroit

The Michigan Organ Donor Registry is a confidential database that documents your wish to become an organ, tissue and eye donor. Your gift will be used to help others through transplantation, therapy, research and education.

Gift of Life and Eversight Michigan provide all services necessary for organ, tissue and eye donation. Share your decision to be an organ donor with friends and family.