

# ORGAN DONATION FACTS • WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

## What is organ and tissue donation?

Organ donation is when an individual chooses to donate their organs and/or tissues legally. This can be done while a person is still living or upon their death with the agreement of the family.

## Making a decision about organ donation

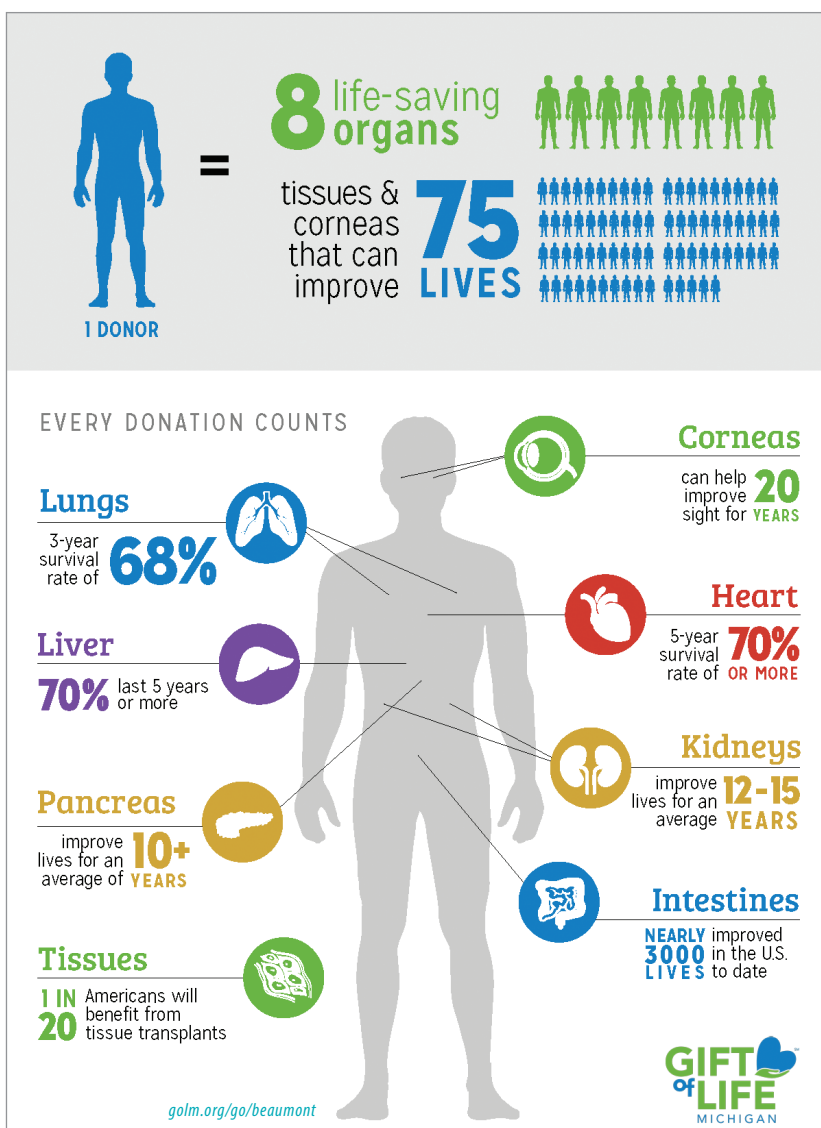
The decision to become an organ donor is a personal one. Speak with your doctor and family about your preferences and wishes around organ and tissue donation. You may change your mind at any time by contacting the gift of life registry and the Michigan Secretary of State.

## What you should know

- The number one priority of medical staff will be to save your life in the event there is a medical emergency.
- The emergency team is separate from those who work in the donation and transplantation of organs.
- Anyone can join the donor registry, regardless of lifestyle or health history.
- Only upon a person's death a medical official will determine what organs or tissue can be used to help others.
- While some things may prevent donation today, you may be a candidate for donation in the future.
- There are no age restrictions to join the registry. Minors may join the registry, with or without parental consent, however the final decision will be made by their parents until he or she turns 18 years of age.
- There is no cost to the individual, the family or the person's estate to register.
- The body will always be treated with dignity and respect. Nothing in the process would preclude any type of burial arrangement, including an open casket.

## What One Donor Can Do

MEASURING THE IMPACT OF ORGAN & TISSUE DONATION



Gift of Life Michigan  
800-500-5801 • [g olm.org/go/beaumont](http://g olm.org/go/beaumont)

Eversight  
800-247-7250 • [eversightvision.org](http://eversightvision.org)

Advance Care Planning • [beaumont.org/respecting-choices](http://beaumont.org/respecting-choices)

## FACTS ABOUT ORGAN DONATION

- Organ donation may delay the time frame for a funeral to be held. In most cases the time extended ranges from 12 to 24 hours. Gift of Life will work closely with the funeral home, keeping them informed of a donor's status.
- By joining the Michigan Organ Donation Registry, you approve the use of all usable organs and tissues. However, you may complete a separate form indicating organs and tissues you are comfortable donating.
- Federal regulation requires each death in Michigan to be reported to Gift of Life. It is only at that time the Gift of Life will check the registry to confirm if an individual has documented their decision to help others.
- In the event that you have a "Do Not Resuscitate" order a ventilator will be used to keep the organs viable, although it is not required for tissue and cornea donation. If the DNR does not express your wishes to use a ventilator for organ donation, Gift of Life and the physicians will work with family on how to proceed. It is important to let your family know your wishes.



## Tissue donation can improve up to 75 lives

### How is tissue used?

#### Ribs and costal cartilage

Facial reconstruction (jaw, nose, ears) often related to trauma

#### Eyes/corneas

Restoration of sight

#### Heart valves

Repairs congenital and acquired heart valve defects

#### Other bone

Creates pins and screws to promote healing and eliminate the need to remove hardware; also used for spinal fusion spacers, joint replacement and bone regeneration

#### Skin

For burn victims; breast reconstruction after mastectomy; abdominal wall repair after hernia surgery; bladder and uterine suspension surgery

#### Long bones

Limb salvage in cases of bone cancer (to avoid amputation) and repair of traumatic injuries

#### Veins

For bypass surgery and kidney dialysis shunts

#### Tendons

Arthroscopic tendon and ligament repairs, especially in sports injuries

#### Nerves

Can protect a recipient's damaged nerve during healing, repair severed nerves and gap (connect) injured nerves

#### Benefits of tissue transplants (grafts)

- Pliability and flexibility of grafts
- Faster healing times
- Cardiovascular tissue doesn't require anticoagulation therapy and is resistant to infection



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