Talk with your family about organ & tissue donation

If you're 16 or older, New York State now allows you to register as an organ, eye, & tissue donor. It's important to tell your family of your decision.

Start the Conversation

You can begin by learning what your family members think and know. Find a time when you can talk together.

Some questions to start with:

- Are you registered as an organ & tissue donor?
- Did you know that one organ donor can save the lives of up to eight people?
- Did you know that one tissue donor can help up to 75 people?

The Need for Donors

More than **100,000 people** in the U.S. are currently awaiting a lifesaving organ transplant. Nearly **10,000 people are waiting in New York State**.

Unfortunately, **17 people die each day** because they were not able to receive an organ transplant in time. 6,000 people in the U.S died in 2021 while on the transplant waiting list.

More than **1 million** tissue & cornea transplants are performed in the U.S. each year.

Donation Truths

Doctors, nurses, & paramedics do everything they can to save a person's life, regardless of organ donation preference.

Most major religions in the U.S. support organ donation and view it as an act of generosity.

A national system matches available organs with people on the waiting list. Matches are based on blood type, body size, how sick the patient is, tissue type, how long the patient has been waiting, distance and related factors.

Race, income, gender, & social status are never considered in matching organs. It is illegal to buy or sell organs and tissue for transplantation.

There is no cost to the donor or their family for organ, eye, or tissue donation.

The donor & family are treated with care & respect throughout the donation process.

How to Register

There are several ways to join the New York State Donate Life registry, including:

- **Start the process online at Connectlife.org/Register**
- **Sign up through the Department of Motor Vehicles**
- **Complete a paper registry form & mail it to ConnectLife or the NYS Department of Health**

ConnectLife