



California

DONOR REGISTRY

Educator Resource Guide

www.donateLIFECalifornia.org/teachers

**Dedicated to Educating
Communities about Organ, Eye,
and Tissue Donation**



Why teach about organ and tissue donation?

Each year thousands of California high-school students apply for their first driver's license or identification card (ID). They are presented with the opportunity to join the organ and tissue donor registry through Donate Life California. Many students are unaware of what being a donor means, and how they can greatly help their communities by checking "yes" to donation when applying for their license. Providing information to students prior to going to the DMV allows them to make an educated decision.

The subject of organ and tissue donation is intrinsically interesting, it is easy to understand and appeals to youthful altruism. Transplantation and donation issues can be part of a standard-based health science guide and in fact, it is in many states. Learning about the science behind donation and the miracle of transplantation can encourage students to share their decision with their family and friends. By educating our youth in the importance of joining the registry we can help narrow the gap between transplant candidates on the waiting list and life-saving donations.

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About Donate Life California

Donate Life California (DLC) is the non-profit Organ and Tissue Donor Registry dedicated to saving the lives of thousands of Californians awaiting life-saving organ and tissue transplants. Our mission is to save lives by inspiring people to sign up with the state organ and tissue donor registry.

Donate Life California represents the four federally designated organ recovery organizations (OPOs) in the state of California, and is charged with educating the community about the need and importance for people to register their donation wishes, along with the following:

- Record donation decisions in the donor registry (Donate Life California); a confidential database of donation wishes to be carried out at the time of death.
- Provide educational programs to high school students prior to them being asked about their donation wishes when they apply for their first driver license.
- Provide outreach programs in diverse communities.
- Support the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) by providing staff training and donation registry information.
- Provide the public with a direct line to donation professionals who can answer questions.
- Work with the media to accurately report donation stories.
- Raise funds to support public education programs.

Donate Life California Organ and Tissue Donor Registry

In April 2005, California's launched an online organ and tissue donor registry called "Donate Life California Registry." This confidential database allows Californians to share their organ donation wishes by registering online. In July of 2006, the Donate Life California Registry took a giant step forward as it began its partnership with the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) replacing donor stickers and donor cards.

By checking the "YES" box on DMV driver license and/ ID card application and or renewal forms, the applicant's license or ID card is imprinted with a pink donor dot indicating that the cardholder is a registered organ and tissue donor, and that the applicant's name has been added to the secure, confidential database of donors. For the first time since its inception over 30 years ago, the pink dot represents a legal binding record captured on the Donate Life California Registry.

California's Overarching Health Education Content Standards

The recommended lesson plans included in this guide meet the following standards as outlined for State of California Health Education Classes:

Standard 1: Essential Health Concepts

All students will comprehend essential concepts related to enhancing health.

Standard 2: Analyzing Health Influences

All students will demonstrate the ability to analyze internal and external influences that affect health.

Standard 3: Accessing Valid Health Information

All students will demonstrate the ability to access and analyze health information, products, and services.

Standard 4: Interpersonal Communication

All students will demonstrate the ability to use interpersonal communication skills to enhance health.

Standard 5: Decision Making

All students will demonstrate the ability to use decision-making skills to enhance health.

Standard 6: Goal Setting

All students will demonstrate the ability to use goal-setting skills to enhance health.

Standard 7: Practicing Health-Enhancing Behaviors

All students will demonstrate the ability to practice behaviors that reduce risk and promote health.

Standard 8: Health Promotion

All students will demonstrate the ability to promote and support personal, family, and community health.

Specific Health Standards

- 5.3.M Describe healthy ways to express caring, friendship, affection, and love.
- 7.3.M Participate in clubs, organizations, and activities in the school and community that offer opportunities for student and family involvement.
- 2.4.P Analyze the influence of culture, media, and technology on health decisions.
- 5.3.P Analyze the characteristics of informed health choices.
- 8.2.P Demonstrate the ability to be a positive peer role model in the school and community.
- 5.1.P Apply a decision-making process to a personal health issue or problem.
- 5.2.P Explain how decisions regarding health behaviors have consequences for oneself and others.
- 5.3.P Apply a decision-making process to a community or environmental health issue.

Student Education Program Opportunities

Included in this Packet:

- **DVD - *Your Decision to Donate***

Specifically created for high school health or science classes.

- **Resource Guide**

Developed to complement the “Your Decision to Donate” DVD, this guide includes lesson activities to assist teachers with in-class assignments or homework.

Additional Free Resources Available to You:

- **Online Opportunities**

Your Decision to Donate can also be accessed online at our website at www.donateLIFCalifornia.org/teachers. At this site, teachers can direct students to complete a worksheet and research organs, eyes, and tissues which can be donated with the interactive body.

- **Community Service**

We provide opportunities for students to complete service learning projects and community service requirements focused on increasing organ, eye, and tissue donation awareness and donor registrations. A full color poster is at the back of this guide for you to either post, or to copy and give to your Student Counselors’ office for posting.

- **In Person Presentations**

Donate Life California offers an in-class, informational presentations (subject to availability of presenters) where students can learn additional facts, ask questions and hear personal stories of individuals whose lives were directly impacted by donation and transplantation. Young adults will be able to make an educated decision about registering to be an organ, eye, and tissue donor as a result of this in-class presentation in conjunction with suggested online class projects. See page 13 for more information.

Recommended Lesson Plans

Recommended Lesson Plan

1. Your Decision to Donate DVD	11 minutes
2. Your Decision to Donate Video Quiz	10 minutes
3. Word Search	10 minutes
4. Fast Facts Review	10 minutes
5. Letter to Family in-class assignment	10 minutes
6. Homework Assignment–A Family Decision	15 minutes
7. Read Brandon Anthony Brown’s Legacy	10 minutes

Supplemental Lesson Plan

Donate Life California In-Person Presentation with Guest Speaker	15 minutes
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An opportunity to hear from someone affected by organ, eye, and tissue donation, i.e., transplant recipient, donor family member, living donor. See next page on how to schedule a speaker (subject to availability).

On-Line Presentation Lesson Plan

Online Student Research	20 minutes
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Visit www.donateLIFECalifornia.org/highschool or www.doneVIDAcalifornia.org/secundaria (for Spanish speaking students).

At this site, teachers may want to assign the following online activities as research, homework or extra credit:

- Watch the high school educational video “Your Decision to Donate.”
- Examine and/or research organs, eyes, and tissues that can be donated by exploring the interactive body.
- Complete worksheets about donation which include multiple choice and T/F questions along with a Family Discussion Guide that encourages students to come up with statements to share with their family about their decision.

Student Review Worksheet

Your Decision to Donate Video Quiz

Name _____

Period _____ Date ____/____/____

Multiple Choice

1. When applying for your driver license or ID card at the DMV, you will be asked:
 - a. Proof of car insurance.
 - b. Your date of birth.
 - c. Organ and tissue donation wishes.
 - d. Any of the above.
2. The recipient of an organ is determined according to:
 - a. Blood and tissue type, body size, length of time on waiting list, medical urgency.
 - b. Ethnicity.
 - c. How famous you are.

True/False

- | | | |
|--|------|-------|
| 1. Dialysis is back up for kidney failure. | True | False |
| 2. You have to be 18 to sign up as a donor. | True | False |
| 3. The need for organ and tissue donation is critical in California. | True | False |

Review Worksheet Answer Guide

Multiple Choice

1. When applying for your driver license or ID card at the DMV, you will be asked:

- a. Proof of car insurance.
- b. Your date of birth.
- c. Organ and tissue donation wishes.

Each applicant will be asked about their donation wishes. It's important to discuss your donation decisions with your family in advance.

ANSWER d. Any of the above.

2. The recipient of an organ is determined according to:

- ANSWER** a. Blood and tissue type, body size, length of time on waiting list, medical urgency. *The Organ Recovery Organization's coordinator matches organs to recipients using the National Transplant Waiting List. Strict federal guidelines ensure ethical and fair distribution, based on medical criteria only. (Priority is given to those who are sickest and those who have been on the list the longest.)*
- b. Ethnicity.
 - c. How famous you are.

True/False

1. Dialysis is back up for kidney failure.

☒ True ☐ False

ANSWER TRUE - *Dialysis is a medical process through which a person's blood is cleansed of the toxins the kidneys normally would flush out. It is generally used when a person's kidneys no longer function properly.*

2. You have to be 18 to sign up as a donor.

True ☒ False

ANSWER FALSE - *Anyone over the age of 13 can sign up as a donor, but should anything happen to them before the age of 18, parents will make the final donation decision.*

3. The need for organ and tissue donation is critical in California.

☒ True ☐ False

ANSWER TRUE - *Thousands of Californians are currently waiting for a life saving transplant. California makes up over 20 percent of the national waiting list.*

Word Search

L	K	H	V	E	S	E	N	I	T	S	E	T	N	I	X	N	J
Q	M	E	T	N	E	I	P	I	C	E	R	M	Z	H	B	A	H
C	A	L	I	F	O	R	N	I	A	R	E	G	I	S	T	R	Y
P	Q	U	T	T	E	J	S	K	G	Q	R	V	T	Z	W	P	N
S	O	D	O	K	C	I	T	G	Z	M	O	U	R	A	O	F	H
U	R	Q	D	G	R	G	U	R	O	Q	X	N	A	S	B	Q	U
K	Z	A	K	C	F	K	T	M	M	B	B	O	N	N	B	O	N
F	V	Y	N	B	O	O	H	I	X	R	U	S	S	A	B	I	I
T	L	K	I	R	W	B	L	T	E	A	O	W	P	G	I	K	Q
U	B	D	P	T	D	W	A	W	J	I	Q	A	L	R	T	C	D
D	J	Y	T	A	E	N	R	O	C	N	C	I	A	O	T	Y	P
Z	P	H	N	S	G	W	J	R	P	D	R	T	N	T	W	O	A
S	Y	E	N	D	I	K	O	W	T	E	E	L	T	H	O	N	N
G	J	A	H	G	N	E	D	D	Z	A	V	I	A	G	L	N	C
M	O	R	H	V	A	X	F	E	F	T	I	S	T	I	U	M	R
X	R	T	F	B	C	N	X	D	K	H	L	T	I	E	N	A	E
Z	P	S	W	M	C	X	B	S	H	V	J	N	O	X	G	G	A
U	C	R	Y	R	K	T	I	S	S	U	E	T	N	L	S	N	S

Find and circle the following words in the grid above

Brain Death
California Registry
Cornea
Eight Organs
Heart

Intestines
Liver
Pancreas
Pink Dot
Recipient

Tissue
Transplantation
Two Kidneys
Two Lungs
UNOS Waitlist

Fast Facts

- When you're admitted to the hospital the number one priority is to save your life. Two doctors not involved in organ donation must declare you brain dead before organ and tissue donation can be considered.
- Organs are allocated according to medical need, blood and tissue type, height and weight. Celebrity status and wealth are not considered.
- One person can save eight lives and enhance 50 others through organ and tissue donation.
- It is against federal law to sell organs and tissues.
- Anybody over the age of 13 can sign up on the Donate Life California Registry. Families of registered donors under the age of 18 must still consent to donation before it can be carried out.
- You can sign up by checking "yes" when applying for your driver's license.
- Anyone can be a potential donor regardless of age, ethnicity, or medical history.
- All major religions support, or permit organ, eye and tissue donation.
- An open casket funeral is possible for organ, eye and tissue donors. The body is treated with dignity, care and respect throughout the entire donation process.
- There is no cost to the donor or their family.
- More than 100,000 Americans are currently waiting for an organ transplant. It is their only medical option left.

Letter to Family

Name _____

Period _____ Date ____/____/____

Dear Parent/Guardian:

During _____ class, I learned about organ and tissue donation and transplantation. An important part of the lesson was the need for me to share my wishes about donation and transplantation with you. As members of my immediate family, you may be asked for your consent to donate my organs and tissues should anything happen to me. Discussing donation with you will enable you to understand and support my wishes as I have written below.

My feelings are as follows:

____ I WISH to be an organ and/or tissue donor.

____ I am not sure at this time.

I'd also like to know how you feel about this subject and to talk with you about your wishes.

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Homework Assignment

Tonight, discuss organ and tissue donation with your family. Tell them what you learned from the presentation today. Have parent(s)/guardian(s) sign this letter indicating they have reviewed this letter.

Name _____

Period _____ Date ____/____/____

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your son/daughter learned today about organ and tissue donation and transplantation. Every person applying for a driver's license or identification card with the Department Motor Vehicles (DMV) will be asked about their donation wishes.

The goals of this lesson were:

- To provide students with basic information for making an educated decision as to whether to register their decision to be an organ and tissue donor.
- To encourage students to discuss this important topic with their parent(s) or guardian(s) prior to visiting the DMV.
- To educate students about organ and tissue donation and the ability of transplants to save lives.

Please take some time as a family to discuss this issue and review any information your son/daughter brings home. It is very important for family members to be aware of one another's donation wishes because the legal next-of-kin may be asked for consent at the time of a loved one's death. Even though it may feel a little uncomfortable, a family discussion about organ and tissue donation now could someday make a decision about donation easier for your family. Many families faced with this decision have shared that they wished they had known how their loved one felt about organ and tissue donation.

A brief family discussion will allow each member of your family to share his or her wishes regarding donation.

After a family discussion, each person who wants to be a donor can indicate his or her specific wishes by visiting www.donateLIFEcalifornia.org or indicating his or her wishes on a driver's license or identification card at the DMV.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Brandon Anthony Brown's Legacy



Brandon Anthony Brown was the type of guy that no one could forget. His charisma, goofiness, devotion, and love were unmatched. He was an encouragement and supporter to his friends, a comedian, a huge Los Angeles Lakers fan, and a great lover of music.

18 year-old Brandon was a senior at Foothill High School in Palo Cedro, Northern California. He had landed a role in the school's annual dinner theatre and dance production, Club Cougar. Midway through the production's two-week run, Brandon attended a cast party at a friend's house. Unfortunately, he did not make it home that evening and was critically injured in an auto accident just seconds after leaving the driveway.

At the hospital doctors did everything to try to save his life, unfortunately, the head impact he received caused his brain to swell. His family received the tragic news that he was brain dead. After the declaration of brain death, the organ recovery agency was contacted by the hospital. Brandon's parents and sister Autumn were presented with a document of gift indicating that Brandon had signed up as an organ donor when he applied for his first driver's license. Autumn remembered that she and her brother discussed organ donation after seeing a TV news story.

Brandon's body was maintained on a ventilator and stabilized with fluids while tests were completed to assess which organs were suitable for transplant. The transplant team determined that seven organs could be recovered for transplantation. Once the transplant team was in place, Brandon's body was taken to the operating room. His organs were removed, cooled and preserved with special solutions while the transplant team immediately returned to their hospitals to perform the transplant surgeries. Brandon donated seven organs and saved five people that day. Nearly 600 people attended his memorial service. Brandon's sister Autumn shares that in the days and weeks that followed his death, "Every student I spoke with described him as their best friend. When you spoke with Brandon it was as though you were the only person in the world that mattered to him – and that is because you were."

"My brother will forever live on...not only in the memories of the people he knew, but in the lives he has touched through his donation," summed up Autumn. And she, too, was forever changed by his donation as she now serves on the staff at Golden State Donor Services, the organ recovery agency serving the Sacramento metro area.

How to Access Additional Student Education Program Opportunities

Yes! I am interested in:

_____ **Helping Further**

For ideas and more information, visit www.donateLIFecalifornia.org/highschool and download the “Volunteering Projects” outline for projects you can share with your interested students. A colorful poster is on the back page in this guide for you to post.

AND/OR

_____ **In-Person Presentation on organ, eye, and tissue donation by Donate Life California**
(Subject to availability of presenters)

Just select one of these three ways to schedule a presentation:

1. Call Donate Life California at 866-797-2366
2. E-mail us at info@donateLIFecalifornia.org
3. Sign up online at www.donateLIFecalifornia.org/teachers

Let us know the following information:

1st Choice Date # class periods _____ Periods/time _____ through _____

2nd Choice Date # class periods _____ Periods/time _____ through _____

Teacher's Name _____

School _____

Address _____

City and Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please let us know the best time to reach you via phone _____

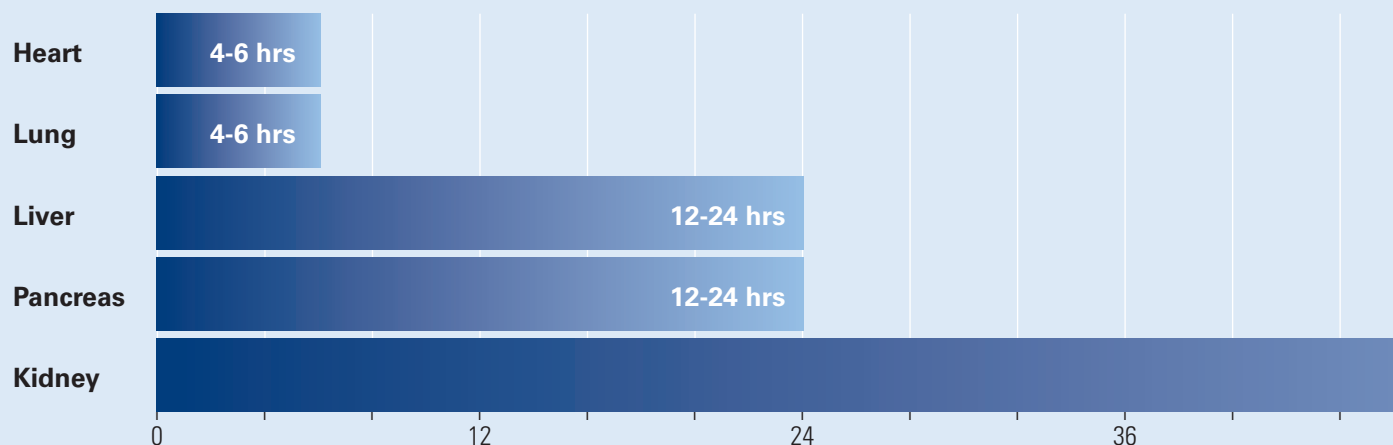
The Organ Donation Process

The 5-Steps of the Organ Donation Process



1. **Trauma and Death** - Most organ donors are accident victims who have suffered severe and eventually fatal injuries — often a severe head injury. After arriving at the scene of such an accident, emergency medical personnel immediately begin life-saving procedures while the patient is transported to a hospital. Every effort is made to save the patient at the hospital.
2. **Referral** - Once a patient is determined brain dead by two different doctors, the hospital must refer the patient to the local organ procurement organization (OPO).
3. **Evaluation** - The OPO, not the physician, evaluates to determine if organ donation is an option.
4. **Approach** - If the patient is eligible to donate, the OPO will speak to the family. The family will be notified if their loved one registered his or herself as an organ donor.
5. **Organ Recovery** - Once consent is granted, either by the DLC Registry or the family, the organs are recovered and used to help save the lives of those on the organ wait list.
6. **Funeral Arrangements** - Family can proceed with regular funeral arrangements. The decision to donate does not affect the option of an open casket.

Organ Preservation Times



Understanding Brain Death

What is brain death?

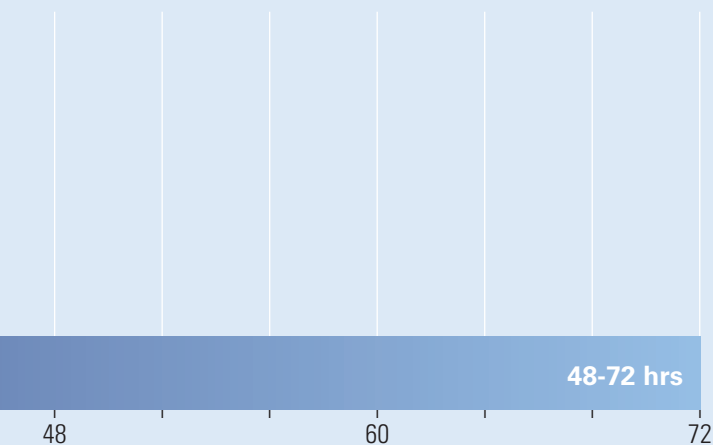
- The complete and irreversible loss of brain and brain stem function.
- An established medical and legal definition of death.
- Brain death is death.
- When brain death has been declared, families are given the option of organ, eye, and tissue donation, if the patient has the medical potential to be a donor.



The above image shows the blood flow inside a normal, active brain. When someone severely injures their brain, the blood flow is cut off or restricted by pressure from the swelling brain.



Brain death occurs when the blood flow to the brain is entirely lost. The photo above is of a brain dead brain.
(Images courtesy of Gift of a Lifetime, www.organtransplants.org)

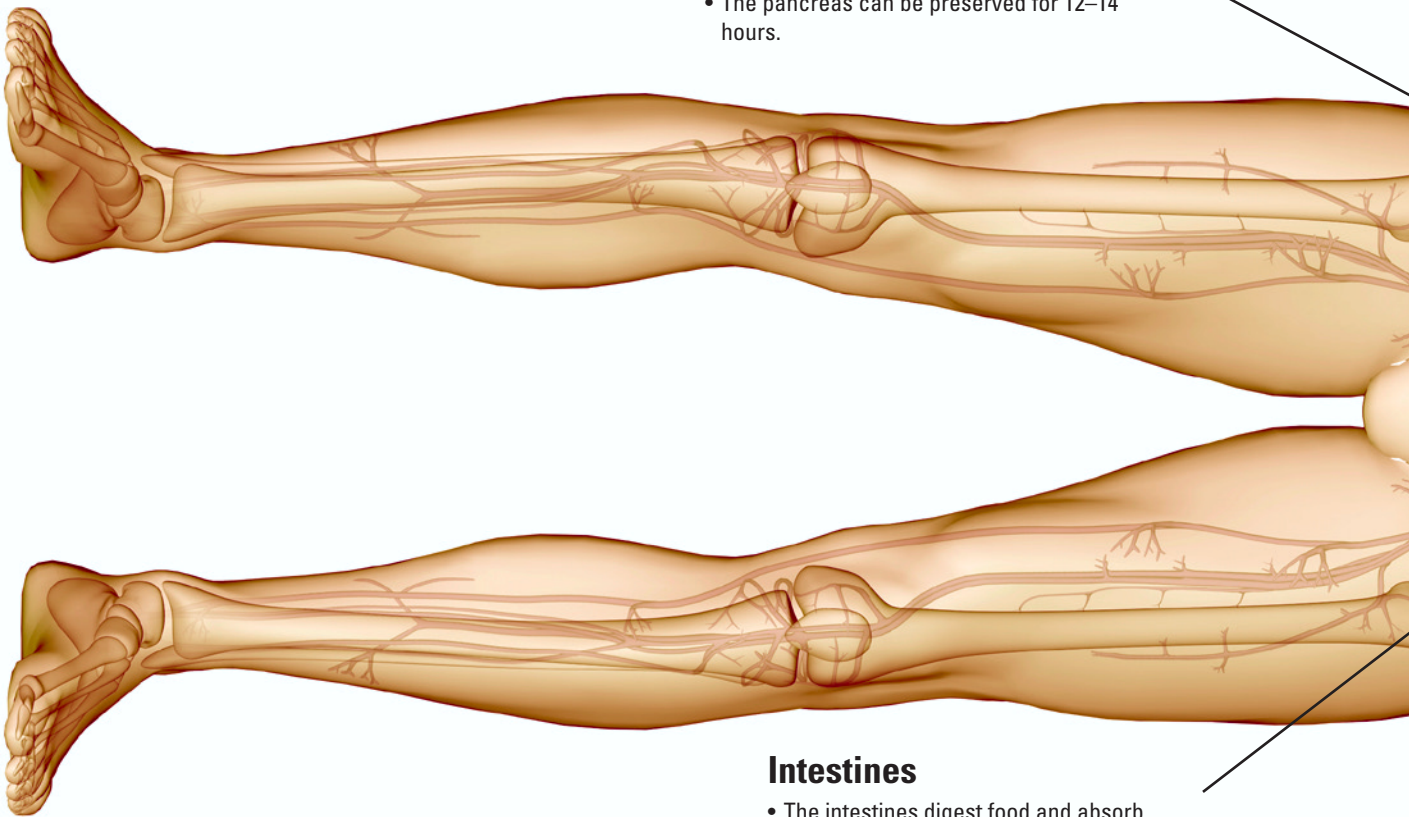


Time is of the essence when it comes to organ transplants. The human heart must be transplanted within four to six-hours of recovery or it cannot be used. Please refer to the graph to the left to see the time each organ has between recovery and transplant to still be a viable organ.

Transplantable Organs

Pancreas

- The pancreas produces insulin, (a hormone that helps the body use glucose (sugar) for energy), and enzymes that break down fat, protein and carbohydrates during digestion.
- The pancreas controls the level of glucose in the blood. It is often transplanted with a kidney, because diabetes affects both organs.
- The pancreas can be preserved for 12–14 hours.



Intestines

- The intestines digest food and absorb nutrients back into the blood stream.
- Most intestinal transplants are performed on infants and children.
- Some conditions that could make a transplant necessary are twisted or blocked intestines or short-gut syndrome.
- Intestines can be preserved for 6–8 hours.

Kidneys

- Blood flows from the heart through the aorta and into the kidneys. The kidneys filter wastes and excess water from the blood and balance the body's fluids.

- While waiting for a kidney transplant, many patients undergo dialysis to clean toxins out of their blood.
- Some conditions that could make a kidney transplant necessary are high blood pressure, diabetes and cystic kidney disease.
- Ethnic minorities are four times more likely to develop kidney failure.
- Kidneys are the most commonly transplanted organ and most in need.
- Kidneys can be preserved up to 48–72 hours.

Lungs

- The trachea or windpipe carries air to the lungs. The alveoli—tiny air sacs, similar to folded balloons, extract oxygen and exchange it for carbon dioxide.
- A single lung can save a life. One donor can be the source of two lungs for transplants.
- Some conditions that could necessitate a lung transplant are cystic fibrosis, pulmonary hypertension, emphysema, and pulmonary edema.
- Lungs have a preservation time of 4–6 hours.

Heart

- The body's hardest working muscle, the heart beats 70 times each minute as it pumps blood throughout the body.
- Some conditions that can make a transplant necessary are cardiomyopathy, heart failure, myocarditis, and heart disease.
- Hearts can be preserved for 4–6 hours before they must be transplanted into a waiting transplant candidate.

Liver

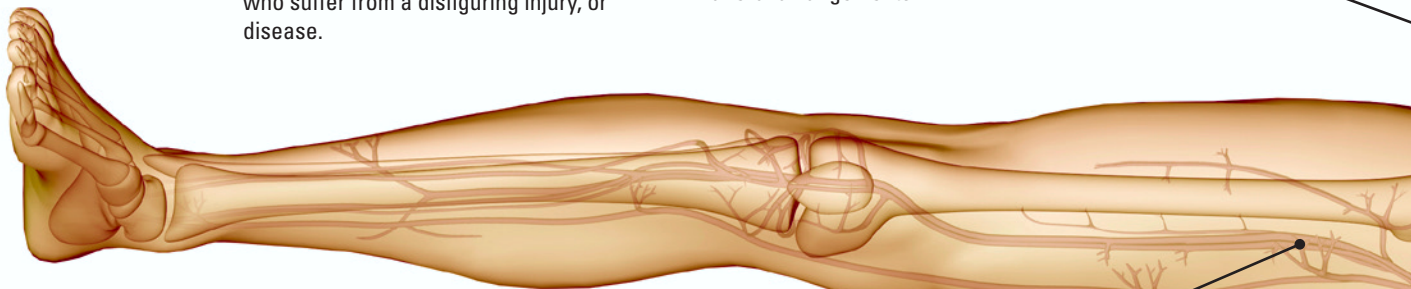
- The liver is a complex organ that has more than 500 known functions. It breaks down harmful substances in the blood, produces bile that aids indigestion and stores vitamins, sugars, and fats.

- A donated liver can sometimes be split between two recipients, so one donor can be the source of two liver transplants.
- Some conditions that could necessitate a liver transplant are birth defects of the liver or bile duct, chronic liver infections like Hepatitis or drug and alcohol damage.
- Livers have a preservation time of 12–24 hours.

Eye and Tissue Information

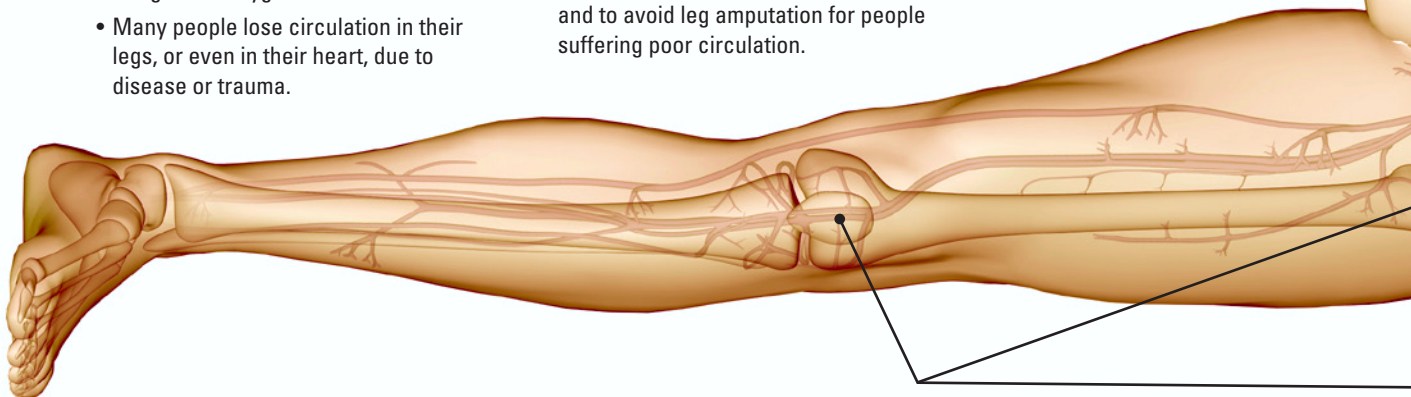
Skin

- About 21 square feet of skin, weighing up to 15 pounds, cover the average adult. Not only is skin the body's first line of defense against microbes, but it also regulates heat and fluids in the body.
- Skin can be used to aid in the healing process for severe burn victims, for those who suffer from a disfiguring injury, or disease.
- Donated skin grafts will protect recipients from infection while promoting regeneration of their own skin.
- Skin from donors is removed from the back of the body, about the thickness of a sunburn peel.
- Donation of skin does not affect the appearance of a donor nor viewing at funeral arrangements.



Veins

- Arteries carry oxygenated blood from the heart to the rest of the body and veins bring the deoxygenated blood back.
- Many people lose circulation in their legs, or even in their heart, due to disease or trauma.
- Donated veins are used to restore circulation in heart bypass surgeries and to avoid leg amputation for people suffering poor circulation.



Bone & Connective Tissue

- Bone and connective tissues include tendons, ligaments and cartilage.
- The gift of bone and connective tissues helps individuals with various orthopedic and neurosurgical conditions.
- These tissues will be used in a variety of back, joint, and leg surgeries such as hip replacement, knee reconstruction, and spinal fusion.
- After the bone and soft tissues are recovered, procurement technicians replace the bone with prosthetics.





Upper Body Bone

- Bones consist of living protein fibers that constantly rebuild themselves.
- The humerus, radius and ulna are the bones in the arm that can be removed.

- Bones can be transplanted in order to prevent amputation, promote healing maintain mobility, and structure.
- After the bone and soft tissues are recovered, procurement technicians replace the bone with prosthetics for funeral viewing arrangements.

Cornea

- The cornea is the clear, dome-shaped window covering the front of the eye.
- Traumatic accidents to the eye, infections, and inherited eye diseases like Keratoconus are just a few reasons why cornea donation can fill such a great need.
- Almost anyone, regardless of age or medical condition, can donate their corneas.

Whole Globe

- After the cornea has been recovered, the sclera (the white part of the eye) can be utilized to repair eyelids and reinforce the wall of the eye.
- Sclera can also be used to repair ruptured eardrums to restore hearing.

Heart Valves

- Blood is pumped through the heart's four chambers aided by four heart valves that open and close and prevent blood from flowing backward.

- Infections and aging related diseases can damage heart valves. Many children are also born with malformed valves.
- Heart valves can be recovered when the whole heart is determined not to be viable for transplant.
- Donated human vessels and valves are used as replacements that can mean the difference between life and death to recipients.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does organ, eye, and tissue donation really help people?

- Organ transplants are life-saving operations. People on the transplant waiting list are suffering from organ failure from conditions such as heart failure and kidney disease. Most will die without the help of a generous organ donor.
- Tissue transplants are life saving, life-enhancing operations. They save the lives recovering burn victims, help blind people see and allow people to walk again.
- Post-transplant, organ, eye, and tissue recipients can live healthy, active lives that weren't possible when they were ill. Most recipients make such an amazing recovery, you would not know that they received a transplant unless they told you.

Who can be a registered organ, eye, and tissue donor?

- Anyone can be considered for organ and tissue donation.
- Trained and experienced medical professionals make decisions about medical suitability at the time of death.
- Everyone, regardless of age or medical history, is encouraged to sign up as a donor.

How do I become a registered organ, eye, and tissue donor?

- Simply check "YES! I want to be an organ and tissue donor!" when you renew or apply for your driver's license or ID card through the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV);

OR

- Anyone age 13 or older can sign up online anytime or to learn more about organ and tissue donation by visiting: www.donateLIFCalifornia.org.

Can I set limitations on the organs, eyes, and tissues I would like to donate?

- Saying "YES" to donation on your driver's license indicates your consent for all organs, eyes, and tissues, for transplant and research.
- If you would like to specify what you would like to donate, go online at www.donateLIFCalifornia.org.

What if I change my mind?

- You can remove your registration online by visiting www.donateLIFCalifornia.org or by calling us at (866) 797-2366.

Where does organ, eye, and tissue donation happen?

- Donation occurs at a medical facility after death is declared and consent for donation is obtained from either the donor registry or the deceased's family.
- The organ recovery agencies work with all hospitals throughout California.

Does the donor's family incur the cost of donation?

- There is no cost to the donor's family for organ, eye, and tissue donation.
- All costs related to donation are paid by the donation agency.
- Expenses related to saving the individual's life and funeral expenses remain the responsibility of the donor's family.

What if an individual registered to be a donor, but their family is opposed to donation?

- State and federal laws support the donor's right to make the decision and have it carried out.
- If an individual has recorded their personal donation decision, it must be honored, whether or not the next-of-kin agrees with it.
- Information about their loved one's decision will be communicated to the family members before donation occurs, and they will be supported throughout the donation process.
- Making sure your family is aware of your donation decision helps to prevent additional stress during their time of loss.
- Most families are happy to know their loved one had made a decision and want to follow through on their final life-giving wishes.
- Families of registered donors under the age of 18 must still consent to donation before it can be carried out.

Can the donor family meet the recipient(s)?

- Organ, eye, and tissue donation is a confidential process. No pressure is placed on donor families or transplant recipients to meet or make contact with one another.
- Shortly after donation, the donor family and recipient(s) will receive general information about one another (age, sex, occupation, general location). No identifying details are shared unless consent has been given by both parties. Recovery organizations and the transplant centers can arrange contact if the desire is mutual.

How is the organ allocation process determined?

- If someone needs an organ transplant, his or her name is added to the National Transplant Waiting List. United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS), is the organization in charge of the waiting list.
- UNOS works with transplant coordinators to match available organs to recipients in need.
- Through extensive testing, coordinators obtain information about blood type and genetic make-up for each transplantable organ. This information is utilized to develop a list of suitable recipients prioritized by considering such factors as medical urgency, tissue type, length of time on the waiting list, blood type, and body size.
- Geographic location is also considered in placement. Organs are offered in accordance to proximity to the donor. If a suitable match is not found, the organs are offered regionally, then nationally.
- There is no discrimination due to age, sex, ethnicity, membership, occupation or social and/or financial status when determining who receives an organ.

Will doctors still work hard to save a patient who they know is a registered donor?

- It is only after every attempt has been made to save your life and death has been declared that the donation process begins.
- The doctors who work to save your life are not the same doctors involved in the recovery and transplantation.

Will donation affect an open casket funeral?

- Organ, eye, and tissue donation is a delicate surgery and does not disfigure the body.
- Funeral arrangements, including an open casket, will not be affected by the decision to donate.

What is "Living Donation"?

- Many adults make a decision to save a life through organ donation during their life. Organs that can be transplanted by living donors include:
 - One kidney (you are born with two kidneys; you can live a safe and healthy life with only one kidney.)
 - A liver section - a portion of a healthy liver can be donated from a living donor. Both the donor and the recipient's liver sections re-grow to normal size within six weeks.

Can organs, eyes, and tissues be given to different ethnic groups or individuals of the opposite sex?

- Gender does not influence the allocation of donated organs, eyes, or tissues.
- Although it is possible for a candidate to match a donor from another ethnic group, many times transplant success rates increase when organs are matched between members of the same ethnic background due to tissue compatibility.
- Ethnic minorities make up more than half the people on the National Transplant Waiting List.

Careers Associated With Transplantation

Careers in the medical field are on the rise, even during a down economy. Organ and Tissue donation and transplantation careers are no exception. Students who chose a career in the organ and tissue field will enter one of the most challenging and rapidly changing areas of medicine. A solid understanding of science or health will better prepare them for these careers. These young people can make a significant contribution to the future of organ transplantation, and help save the lives of countless others. The following is a brief description of some of the careers available in organ donation and transplantation.

Chemists are scientists who study chemicals and how they react with one another. Chemists can be involved in developing medications to help organ recipients.

Physicians diagnose and treat diseases that may result in organ failure, and provide treatment and prescribe medication for individuals who are waiting for an organ transplant or have undergone organ transplantation.

Dialysis Technicians oversee the process of safely administering dialysis to kidney patients. Patients with failing kidneys who are waiting for a transplant must have dialysis to keep their bodies cleansed of impurities that the kidneys would normally help eliminate.

Nurses assist physicians in treating organ transplant recipients and donors. Nurses also assist in surgery during organ and tissue removal and transplantation. These nurses typically have critical care experience.

Lab Technicians are trained in the life sciences. They help catalog, store, and test tissues, blood samples, and other important information.

Immunologists are medical professionals who study and research the body's immune system, and who help develop ways for the body to more effectively accept a transplanted organ with fewer side effects.

Researchers in the field of medicine—chemists, biologists, radiologists, and others with training and/or experience in the life sciences—help develop new drug treatments, methods of transplantation, and ways of treating organ recipients.

Pharmacologists are scientists who deal with the preparation, uses, and effects of medications.

Transplant coordinators—a vital link in the transplantation and donation process—counsel the family of a recently deceased person about the option of donation, and help oversee the medical management of the donor and placement of the organs.

Nutritionists study how diet affects overall health. Nutritionists can help organ recipients maintain a diet that will help them regain their health during the recovery period, and through the rest of their life.

Physical Therapists develop and help administer exercise programs that help organ recipients recover their physical strength and resume their normal activities as much as possible.

Radiologists are medical professionals who understand x-rays and x-ray therapies, and who determine the best use of these technologies in the medical care of donors and transplant recipients.

Transplant Surgeons transplant surgeons specialize in the transplantation of particular organs. They also remove organs from donors.

Source: Decision: Donation

Donation Resources

Donate Life California

www.donateLIFCalifornia.org
Spanish: www.doneVIDAcalifornia.org
1760 Creekside Oaks Dr, Ste 190
Sacramento, CA 95833
866.797.2366

Donate Life America

www.donatelife.net
Spanish: www.donavidahoy.com

National organization dedicated to educating the public about organ, eye, and tissue donation. Provides general information about organ, eye, and tissue donation in both English and Spanish.

Blood Donation

American Red Cross Blood Services
800-GIVE-LIFE
www.redcross.org

Blood Mobile

mobile blood donation centers
www.Bloodmobile.org

Department of Health and Human Services

www.organdonor.gov/student/
Supplemental lesson plans and student activities available online and/or mailed at no charge. The program was provided to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services by the efforts of several organ procurement organizations.

Gift of a Lifetime

www.organtransplants.org
Online curriculum including an interactive journey of transplantation with real life stories of donation and transplantation.

Transplant Living

www.transplantliving.org

National Kidney Foundation

<http://www.kidney.org/>

Astellas Pharma US, Inc.

www.astellas.com/en
Contributed toward improving the health of people around the world through the provision of innovative and reliable pharmaceutical products. Develops and provides pharmaceuticals that support organ and tissue transplantation.

Bone Marrow Donation

1-800-MARROW2 (1-800-627-7692)
Be the Match
National Marrow Donor Program
www.marrow.org

United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS)

www.unos.org
1-888-894-6361
UNOS manages the National Transplant Waiting List, and this site provides information and data concerning many aspects of donation and transplant. It is also linked with a partner site, that of the Organ Procurement Transplant Network (OPTN), which calculates all the donation and transplant statistics.

For more information about
Donate Life California - go to:
donatelifeCA.org/highschool

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For more info...
go to:
donatelifeCA.org

Need ideas
for community
service and
senior projects?



Lacey, heart and kidney recipient

They call me
"Lucky"
Lacey.

They call me 'Lucky Lacey', because I got a second chance through a life-saving heart transplant. A donor family decided to give life, and because of that I now get to do all the things kids my age enjoy. I want to do everything possible, because I don't want to waste any of the time I've been given. I am lucky, and I will do everything I can to make sure others get the same chance at life as I have been given. I tell everyone how important it is to be a donor.

You have the power to Donate Life.

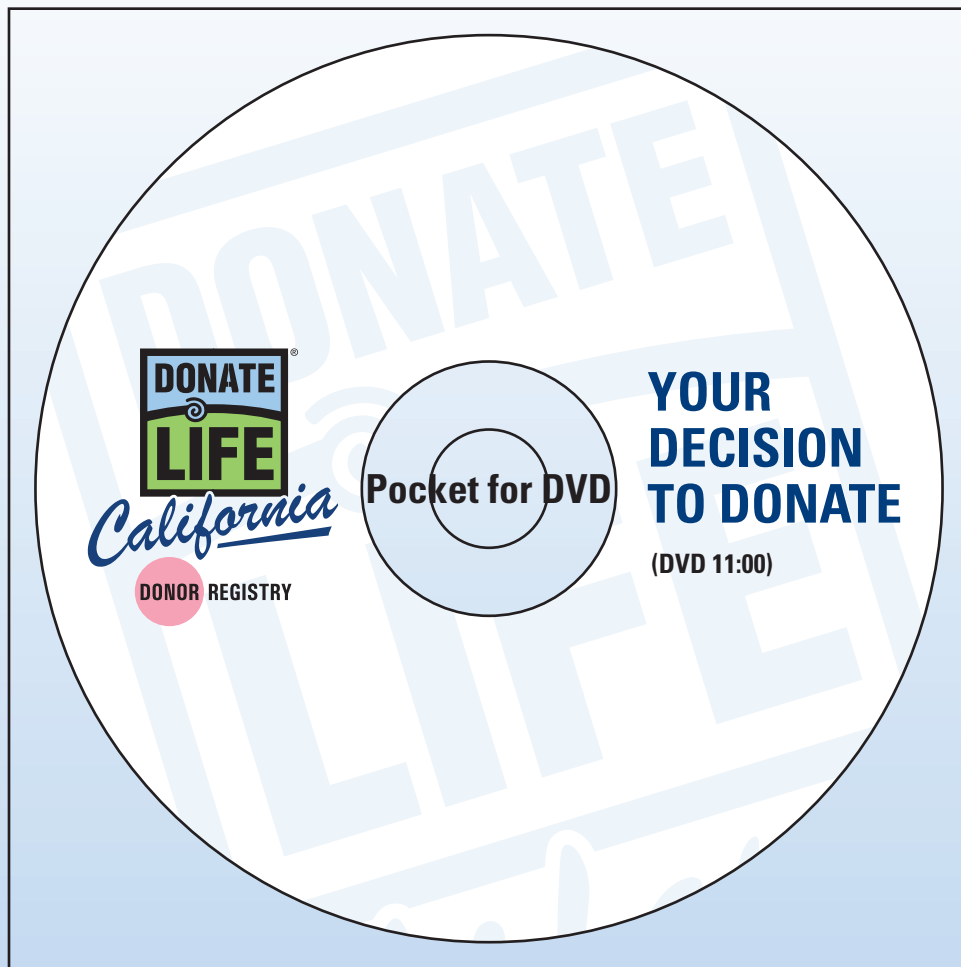
My grandfather never got to watch me play football, but because of his gift of life, a young father got to watch his sons grow up and play the game.

Be a donor. I've seen the joy that the gift of life brings to families. That's why I volunteer with Donate Life California.



Brian, donor grandson





Made possible by an in-kind donation from



and our project sponsors.

Astellas Pharma US, Inc.

**Team Northern California
(National Kidney Foundation
U.S. Transplant Games)**

Employees Community Fund (ECF) of Boeing

Donate Life Run/Walk Committee



www.donateLIFecalifornia.org/teachers

Educator Resource Guide

Toll Free: 866.797.2366

Fax: 916.880.3510