



*Organ donation.
Giving life a second chance.*

Despite continuing efforts at public education, misconceptions about organ donation persist. It's a tragedy if even one person decides against donation because of inaccurate information. Following is a list of the most common myths along with the actual facts.

Myth: Becoming a donor will affect my medical care if I am in an accident.

Fact: If you are admitted to a hospital, the number one priority is to save your life. Organ donation can only be considered after a physician has declared brain death or the family chooses to withdraw life-sustaining therapies.

Myth: Organ donation disfigures the body.

Fact: Organs and tissues are removed in an operation at the hospital. Your body is treated with respect and an open casket funeral is possible after donation.

Myth: My religion prohibits donation.

Fact: All major religions approve of donation and consider it an act of charity.

Myth: If you agree to donate your organs, your family will be charged.

Fact: There is no cost to the donor's family or estate for organ or tissue donation. Funeral costs remain the responsibility of the family.

Myth: Having "organ donor" on your driver's license or carrying a donor card is all you have to do to become a donor.

Fact: While donation can legally occur with these documents, it is important to discuss your decision with your family to ensure they understand your wishes.

Myth: Your history of medical illness or advanced age means you are unfit for donation.

Fact: People of all ages and medical histories should consider themselves potential donors. Medical professionals will review your history at the time of death to determine what organs and tissues can be donated.

Myth: When you're waiting for a transplant, your financial or celebrity status is as important as your medical status.

Fact: What really counts is the severity of your illness, time spent waiting, blood type, and other important medical information.

You may document your intention to become an organ and tissue donor by indicating your wish on your driver's license or by registering at www.alabamaorgancenter.org. Be sure your family knows your decision to share the gift of life!

To learn more call the Alabama Organ Center at **1-800-252-3677** or visit our website at **www.alabamaorgancenter.org**.