

Frequently Asked Questions about the Wisconsin Donor Registry

1. Who may sign-up on the Wisconsin donor registry?

The Wisconsin donor registry allows anyone who is at least 15½ years of age and holds a Wisconsin driver's license or State identification card to register as an organ, tissue and eye donor.

2. Are there any age limits or health conditions that rule out donation?

Anyone can register to be a donor. At the time of death, donation professionals complete a comprehensive medical and social history and review the results of a number of lab tests to determine if a person is able to be a donor. People older than age 75 have donated and saved lives.

3. What does it mean to register?

Having your name included in the Wisconsin donor registry means that you have authorized the gift of your organs, tissues, and eyes upon your death. Registering indicates legal consent for donation. Your gift will be used to save and improve the lives of others through transplantation, therapy, research or education.

4. May I limit my donation?

You may amend your gift to include something other than all needed organs, tissues and eyes or to direct the gift for a particular person through other written documents. This includes your advanced directive or will, a statement in a power of attorney for health care document, or the statement on the back of your driver's license. Let your family know about this additional information so your wishes can be honored.

5. If I have an orange dot on my driver's license am I registered?

Your name is included in the donor registry if you received the orange donor dot at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) any time *on or after March 29, 2010*.

6. Can my family override my decision to donate?

Once you register as a donor, you have made a *record of gift* in accordance with Wisconsin state law. If you are over the age of 18, or are an emancipated minor, your decision may not be overridden by your family. If you are under age 18 and are not legally emancipated, your parents or legal guardians have the ability to overrule your decision. Donation professionals will present documentation of your inclusion in the registry to your family and work with them to honor that decision.

7. May I register to be a donor at the DMV?

Beginning March 29, 2010, your donation decision at the DMV will add your name to the registry and give legal authorization for donation. However, since you may not be scheduled to renew your license for some time, you should sign-up on the registry today by using the website at donatelifewisconsin.org. If you wish to continue to be listed on the registry as a donor, you will need to check the "yes" box on your application form each time you renew your license or state I.D. at the DMV.

8. How do you ensure that someone does not sign-up another person without his or her knowledge?

You must provide your full name, driver's license or state ID number, and date of birth to sign-up on the Wisconsin donor registry. This information must exactly match what is contained on your driver's license or State identification card record for the registration to be authorized. There are registries in place in almost all of other states, and there have not been reports of inappropriate registrations.

9. Does the registry allow me to sign up to be a marrow or living organ donor?

The Wisconsin donor registry identifies donors for organ, tissue and eye donation upon death. Please contact the following organizations for information about donating blood or bone marrow, or to donate an organ while living:

Blood Donation BloodCenter of Wisconsin: bcw.edu

	American Red Cross:	redcrossblood.org
Bone Marrow	BloodCenter of Wisconsin:	bcw.edu
	National Marrow Registry:	marrow.org
Living Donation	UW Hospital and Clinics:	uwhealth.org/livingdonor
	Froedtert Memorial Lutheran Hospital:	froedtert.com
	Children's Hospital of Wisconsin:	chw.org
	Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center:	aurorahealthcare.org

10. What about donating my whole body for science?
Signing-up on the registry does not grant permission for your body to be donated to medical schools. Willed whole body donation programs are usually associated with teaching hospitals at major universities, and arrangements must be made directly with those institutions. Should you choose to consent to whole body donation, you will be unable to donate your organs, tissue or eyes for transplant.
11. How do people in other states sign up to be a donor? Is there a national registry?
There is no national registry. However, states may contact another state concerning the registry status of a potential donor from another state. All matters concerning organ, tissue and eye donation are under the jurisdiction of each state's respective laws.
12. What if I do not have access to the internet or a computer?
You may submit a written request to register as a donor to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles, Qualifications and Issuance, Rm. 801, P.O. Box 7999, Madison, WI 53707-7999. You may also sign-up online using the internet at your local library.
13. How do I know if my registration was successful?
You will receive one email immediately after you submit your request and another confirming your registration if you provide an email address.
14. Who is responsible for administering the Registry?
The Wisconsin Donor Registry is authorized by s. 157.06(20) Stats. and maintained by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.
15. How can I be sure my information is kept confidential?
The Wisconsin donor registry adheres to the strictest and most up-to-date guidelines to keep all personal information confidential. Every precaution is in place to protect the information.
16. What if I change my mind and don't want to be a donor?
You may remove your name from the Wisconsin donor registry at any time. Go to donatelifewisconsin.org and click on the DONATE circle. Follow the instruction to remove your name from the registry. You may also submit your request in writing to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles, Qualifications and Issuance, Rm. 801, P.O. Box 7999, Madison, WI 53707-7999.
17. If I have been told I cannot donate blood, does that rule me out for organ, tissue and eye donation?
Medical criteria for organ, tissue and eye donation change on a regular basis and are determined by need. You should not rule yourself out for any reason. Should you ever be in the situation where you could donate, donation professionals will check the registry and carefully review your medical and social history.
18. Will there be paperwork for my family to complete even if I am registered as a donor?
When individuals sign up on the donor registry, they authorize donation. This means their families will not be required to give authorization. There may be additional questions in the donation process which do require the assistance of the family.