

# 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 (I.D.) card to register as an organ, tissue and eye (cornea) donor.

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

Anyone can register to be a donor, regardless of age or previous/current health conditions. At the time of death, donation professionals complete a comprehensive medical and social history, including a number of lab tests, to determine if a person is able to be a donor. People older than age 75 have donated organs, tissues and corneas and saved and healed lives.

3. What does it mean to register as an organ, tissue and eye (cornea) donor on Wisconsin's Donor Registry?

You authorize the gift of your organs, tissues, and eyes (corneas) upon your death when you sign up on the Wisconsin Donor Registry. Registering indicates legal consent in Wisconsin for donation for the purposes of transplantation, therapy, research or education. If you become a donor your gift will be used to save and improve the lives of others.

4. May I register to be an organ, tissue and eye (cornea) donor at the DMV?

Your donation decision at a Wisconsin DMV adds your name to Wisconsin's donor registry giving legal authorization for donation. If you wish to continue to be listed on the registry as a donor, you will need to check the "yes" box on your driver's license or State I.D. application form when you obtain a new, or renew your, driver's license or State I.D. card.

5. Am I registered when I have Wisconsin's orange dot symbol on my Wisconsin driver's license or State I.D. card?

Your name is included in the Donor Registry when you obtain your driver's license or State I.D. card and register at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). You receive your license or State I.D. in the mail with the orange donor dot.

- a. When you register at a DMV it is unnecessary to also register on Wisconsin's online Donor Registry site -- if you register online it is a duplicate registration.
- b. When you register online at DonorRegistry.Wisconsin.gov you will not receive an orange dot for your license or State I.D. card, however, you are a registered donor in the Wisconsin Donor Registry database

6. May I limit my donation?

You may amend your gift to include something other than all needed organs, tissues and eyes (corneas) or to direct the gift for a particular person through other written documents. Written documentation includes your advanced directive (or will), a statement in a power of attorney for health care 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.

7. Can my next-of-kin 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 next-of-kin and work with them to honor that decision.

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

You must provide your full name, driver's license or State I.D. number and date of birth to sign up on the Wisconsin Donor Registry. This information must exactly match the information on your driver's license or State I.D. card record for the registration to be authorized. All other states (plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands) have donor registries and there have not been reports of inappropriate registrations.

9. Does the Wisconsin Donor Registry include registering as a bone marrow donor or living kidney or liver organ donation?

The Wisconsin Donor Registry identifies donors for organ, tissue and eye (cornea) donation upon death. Please contact the following organizations for information about donating blood, bone marrow or to donate a kidney or part of your liver as a living donor:

**Blood Donation:**

American Red Cross of Wisconsin  
Versiti Blood Center of Wisconsin

**Bone Marrow Donation:**

National Bone Marrow Registry  
Versiti (connected with Be The Match)

**Living Donation:**

Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center (Milwaukee)  
Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin (Milwaukee)  
UW Health Transplant Center (Madison)

10. What about donating my whole body for science/medical schools?  
Signing up on Wisconsin's donor registry does not grant permission for your body to be donated to science/medical schools. Willing whole body donation programs are associated with teaching hospitals at major universities. Whole body donation must be pre-arranged directly with those institutions. Check with your closest medical school for information. Should you choose to consent to whole body donation, you are unable to donate your organs, tissues and possibly eyes (corneas) for transplant.
11. How do people who are residents of other states register to be an organ, tissue and eye (cornea) donor?  
Each state has their own donor registry. Residents of other states will find a link to their state donor registry at [www.organdonor.gov/register.html](http://www.organdonor.gov/register.html), selecting their state from a drop-down list. Healthcare professionals working for organ procurement organizations 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 to a computer?  
There are several other ways to register if you cannot register at a DMV:  
a. Ask a relative or friend to download and print a paper form in English or Spanish at [dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/f-02051.htm](http://dhs.wisconsin.gov/library/f-02051.htm) to complete and mail to the address on the form.  
b. Submit a written request to register as a donor to: Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles, Qualifications and Issuance, Rm. 801, PO Box 7999, Madison, WI 53707-7999.  
c. Use a computer at your local library.
13. Who is responsible for administering the Wisconsin Donor 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.
14. Is there a National Donor Registry?  
Yes, in 2015 Donate Life America launched a National Donor Registry at [registerme.org](http://registerme.org). When you register on the Wisconsin Donor Registry it is not recommended to register on the National Donor Registry, also. Why? The National Donor Registry authorizes your gift for the purposes of transplantation only; it does not include authorization for research, therapy and education as does the Wisconsin Donor Registry. Consequently, your next-of-kin must consent to research, therapy and education by completing additional paperwork if you are able to be a donor.
10. 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 this information.
11. 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:  
a. Go to [WisconsinDonor.Registry.org](http://WisconsinDonor.Registry.org) and click on the **RED rectangle** "Remove my name from the Wisconsin Donor Registry. Follow the instructions to remove your name from the registry.  
b. 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.
12. I have been told I cannot donate blood. Does that rule me out for organ, tissue and eye (cornea) donation?  
Not necessarily. Medical criteria for organ, tissue and eye donation change on a regular basis due to medical advances and treatment. You should not rule yourself out as an organ, tissue and eye (cornea) donor for any reason. Should you ever be in the situation where you might be able to donate organs, tissues or eyes (corneas), donation professionals check your State and National registries and carefully review your medical and social history.
13. 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.