



# LIFE Connections

## National Donate Life Registry

### What is the National Donate Life Registry?

The Donate Life New England Donor Registry is a computer database of individuals age 18 years and older who have made the decision to save lives through organ and tissue donation. It allows organ and tissue donation professionals to determine at the time of death if someone had registered to be a donor so that their wish to donate could be fulfilled.

### Is registering through the National Donate Life Registry similar to signing up to be a donor at the DMV?

Yes. Registering with National Donate Life Registry is simply one more way to make donation decisions known. Many donors may even wish to register through both National Donate Life Registry and their state motor vehicle office.

### If someone changes their mind, can they remove themselves from the registry?

If someone registers online through the website, they can change their registration status at any time. However, if they are also registered through a state's driver's license process, they must remove themselves through the state's motor vehicle department.

### Can people make specific decisions about what organs and tissues they wish to donate?

Yes. On the enrollment form there will be an opportunity to designate specific organs or tissues you do not wish to donate.

### Will their decision to donate be kept private?

Identifying information in the donor registry is only accessible to designated donation professionals. The information on the donor registry cannot be shared with or sold to companies or government agencies. Next-of-kin will be informed of a donation decision and about the donation process to follow.

### Do people receive a donor card?

No. Federal regulations require all hospital deaths to be reported to the local organ procurement organization. This makes it possible for the computerized National Donate Life Registry to be checked each and every time a death is referred. No donor card is necessary. We recommend that everyone who registers as a donor talk to their family about their decision to donate.

### Does next-of-kin have the authority to override the registry?

No. Families cannot override the decision to donate. Similar to one's decision for a health care proxy, donor designation is legally binding.

### What happens if a family is opposed to their loved one's donor designation?

Most families support their loved one's wish to save lives. When a family is opposed, NEOB staff will work to help them understand donor designation and work with staff to provide continued support to families and honor the wishes of the donor.



Referral Line 800-446-6362

New England Organ Bank

A Donate Life Organization