



## WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT BECOMING AN ORGAN, EYE AND TISSUE DONOR



### DONATION

- ◆ You must be 16 years of age or older to enroll in the New York State Donate Life Registry. If you are 16 or 17 years of age at the time of your death, your parents or legal guardians may revoke your decision to donate. Upon reaching the age of 18, only you can change, limit, or revoke your enrollment and consent to donation.
- ◆ Your decision to become an organ, eye and/or tissue donor upon your death will not affect your medical care or treatment while you are alive. Medical staff do not have access to the Registry and the doctors who take care of you while you are alive are not the same doctors involved in the donation process. Donation is not considered until death has occurred or is imminent.
- ◆ The organs, eyes and tissues you donate will go to patients in the greatest need. As many as 8 lives can be saved by a single donor.
- ◆ There is no cost to the donor's family for organ, eye and/or tissue donation.

### THE ORGAN, EYE AND TISSUE DONOR REGISTRY

- ◆ The NYS Donate Life Registry is a database that contains the names of people who have legally consented to donate their organs, eyes, and/or tissues upon their death.
- ◆ You can enroll in the Registry many ways, including through: NYS Donate Life Registry website ([donatelife.ny.gov](https://donatelife.ny.gov)), DMV transactions, when applying for an IDNYC government-issued identification card, when registering to vote with the Board of Elections, when applying for health insurance through the NYS of Health Insurance Marketplace, etc.
- ◆ After you enroll in the NYS Donate Life Registry, you will receive an email or letter that confirms your enrollment and provides you with information about how to change, limit or revoke your donation. Because you have consented to donation by joining the Registry, upon your death, permission of your family and next of kin will not be needed for the donation process to proceed.
- ◆ You can remove your name from the Registry at any time. For information and instructions about how to remove your name, visit [DonateLife.ny.gov](https://DonateLife.ny.gov) or call 1-866-NY-DONOR.

For more information about organ, eye and tissue donation and how to enroll in the NYS Donate Life Registry, visit [DonateLife.ny.gov](https://DonateLife.ny.gov) or call 1-866-693-6667. You can also get information about donation and enrollment from one of the local organizations listed below:

Center for Donation & Transplant (Albany area) . . . . . 1-(800)-256-7811  
ConnectLife (Buffalo area) . . . . . 1-(800)-227-4771  
Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network (Rochester/Syracuse area) . . . . 1-(800)-810-5494  
LiveOnNY (Metropolitan New York City area and Long Island) . . . . . 1-(800)-443-8469



### ENROLLING IN THE REGISTRY THROUGH DMV TRANSACTIONS

There are many DMV transactions that give you the opportunity to enroll in the NYS Donate Life Registry.

1. You can join the NYS Donate Life Registry when you apply for a driver license, permit or non-driver identification (ID) card. If you say "Yes" to joining the NYS Donate Life Registry, your new document will have the heart symbol and "organ donor" printed on it.
2. If you have a driver license, permit, or non-driver ID card, you can create a MyDMV account on the DMV website and enroll in the NYS Donate Life Registry online.
3. Starting March 2023, you can enroll in the Registry when you register a vehicle for the first time. Vehicle registration renewals can be completed online. If you renew your vehicle registration online, you may join the NYS Donate Life Registry by following the link provided during the transaction.

To remove or add the heart symbol on your DMV document, you must order a new document. To get a new document, complete form MV-44 at a DMV office, write either "Remove Organ Donor Heart Icon" **OR** "Add Organ Donor Heart Icon" in the box labeled "Other Change", and pay the \$17.50 replacement document fee.

**It is important to note that your name is not removed from the NYS Donate Life Registry when you remove the organ donor symbol from your DMV document. You must remove your name from the Registry separately.** For information and instructions about how to remove your name from the Registry, visit [donatelife.ny.gov](https://donatelife.ny.gov) or call 1-866-NY-DONOR.

