

Basic information for newsletters. You may wish to put this in a context that reflects your faith. Please edit as you wish and contact Donate Life Northwest if you have questions at 503-494-7888 or trujillo@ohsu.edu.

In 2008, the organ donation and transplantation communities welcomed two very exciting changes in donor legislation with the passing of the revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act:

1) Oregonians ages 15 -17 can put a "D" code on their license or permit and do not need permission to do this. However, should they become a potential donor before they turn 18, their legal next of kin must give signed consent for donation to occur. *It is very important for young people to talk with their families about their decision to be donors as well as putting the "D" on their license or permit.*

2) The organ, eye and tissue recovery agencies now accept the donor code on a driver's license as first person consent for donation. This aligns the practice with the law and with public perception. Each potential donation case is managed individually, however, and the recovery agencies work closely with the family.

Today, there are 3 equally powerful and meaningful ways to register as a donor in Oregon and Washington:

- Ask the motor vehicle dept. to code your driver's license, permit or ID
- Sign up online
Oregon: donatelifenw.org Washington: donatelifetoday.com
- Sign up on paper
Oregon: call 1-800-452-1369 Washington: call 1-877-275-5269

The registry database consisting of license codes, online and paper registrations is available 24/7 only to authorized recovery agency employees, saving precious time when every minute counts. Hospital personnel do not have access to the donor registry – their mission is to do everything possible to save their patient's life.

What is the difference between a donor code on a license/permit and online registration? The driver's license code is considered "global" consent, i.e. permission to recover all organs, eyes and tissues deemed suitable for transplant.

The online registry and paper form are more easily updated than a driver's license and allow an individual to specify what they wish to donate whether for transplant or research or both. Online and paper registrations also offer those without a license a way to sign up on the donor registry. Available 24/7, online registration takes less than 5 minutes.

The Need is Urgent!

- More than 100,000 people in the U.S. await an organ transplant to save their lives. 2,500 people in the Pacific Northwest are on the organ transplant waiting list.
- Every day, 18 people die waiting for an organ transplant, and 6 people are removed from the waiting list because they are too sick to undergo transplant surgery.
- Every donor counts! **1 donor** can save **8 lives** and restore sight or mobility to more than **50 others**.