

TEACHER'S GUIDE
FOR

A License to Give

This teacher's guide and accompanying student workbook provide an easy way to teach your students about a sensitive subject —

ORGAN and TISSUE DONATION & TRANSPLANTATION

*Share Your Life.
Share Your Decision.*





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Donate Life North Carolina

These materials were developed by Donate Life North Carolina (DLNC) for high school students in our state. Donate Life North Carolina gratefully acknowledges the Gift of Hope (formerly Regional Organ Bank of Illinois) which originally developed these materials and graciously allowed DLNC to adapt them for use in North Carolina.

Donate Life North Carolina also recognizes the creative work and catchy ideas submitted by many classes from across the state to help us name this curriculum. The winning entry, "A License to Give" was submitted by Linda Steelman's 9th grade English class at Elkin High School in April 2003.

Donate Life North Carolina is a statewide initiative to promote organ, eye, tissue, blood and bone marrow donation. The mission of DLNC is to inspire all North Carolina residents to save and enhance lives by registering as organ, eye and tissue donors. Please visit our website at www.donatelifenc.org to learn more about our organization.



A License to Give was produced specifically for high school students to meet requirements of the NC DPI Healthful Living curriculum goals and objectives.

Included in the teacher's guide are resources for the educator to expand students' understanding of donation and transplantation. Tests and exercises provided allow for evaluation of student understanding of the curriculum and encourage students to complete the learning process by personalizing the material.



*"I'm here today
because I had a
kidney transplant."*
Heather Barajas
Age 13



*"I want people to
realize how important
transplants are to some
people and how they
can save lives."*
Nick Pacific
Age 17



*"I think by this age
you've seen enough,
and you know enough
to make an educated
decision."*
Ryan Nelson
Age 15

A License to Give

Share Your Life. Share Your Decision.

A License to Give

A lesson plan for grades 9–12 to meet Healthful Living Competency Goal 2.02 -- Students will be able to describe the procedures for organ donation, local and state resources and benefits to society.

Time required for lesson: 60 minutes

Materials/Resources: 1 Teacher Manual and 1 copy of the Student Workbook for each student

Lesson Plan:

1. **Approaching the topic** – organ donation and transplantation is a sensitive topic. To discover how students feel about this, it could be helpful to:
 - a. Give your students a moment to contemplate the topic before beginning the discussion. Some students may be thinking about organ and tissue donation for the first time.
 - b. Ask students if they have had an experience with organ and tissue donation or transplantation in their own families. Ask students if they want to share this information with the rest of the class. These disclosures can benefit the class by providing “close to home”, personal perspectives on the topic.
2. **Assessing the students’ knowledge and attitudes**
 - a. Have your students complete the one-page Donation and Transplantation Quiz (Teacher pg. 3, Student pg. 2) prior to any discussion about the subject of donation and transplantation. You may also want to use this quiz as a post-test after teaching about this topic.
 - b. Share Your Opinion (Teacher pg. 5, Student pg. 3) – list the statements on the board. Poll the students to see which opinions they share. Use this information to assess students’ knowledge of how donation works and what their fears about donating may be.
3. **Activities and Exercises** – there are several activities and exercises provided in this manual so that you can select the ones best suited for your classroom.
 - a. Myths & Misconceptions (Teacher pg. 7, Student pg. 5) – Review these common myths about donation to see how many the students have heard before. What other myths about donation have they heard? Discuss the answers. How can we find out whether a myth is true or not? How do these myths impact individuals’ feelings and decisions about donation? How can we help dispel these myths?
 - b. Writing a Thank You Letter to the Donor Family (Teacher pg. 12, Student pg. 10) – Through this exercise, students can imagine how it might feel to be a transplant recipient and convey their thanks to a family who gave them a second chance to live. Use the aspects of communication questions on the bottom half of the page to stimulate discussion of these issues. Remind students that there are no “right” or “wrong” answers here, just feelings to consider and explore.
 - c. Group Case Study (Teacher pg. 13, Student pg. 13) – Have the students read the case study and discuss the questions that follow. Some of the questions focus on ethical issues surrounding donation and could be used as topics for student debate or topics for development of a persuasive speech.
 - d. Letter to Parents (Teacher pg. 15, Student pg. 14) – Have the students complete the letter to their parents (or guardians) and bring it home with them to encourage a family discussion about donation.
 - e. Speakers and Materials - Consider contacting one of the agencies listed on the last page in the manual (that serves your area of the state) to request brochures, videos or speakers on this topic. These agencies can provide ideas for specific materials that would be appropriate and helpful for your class. In addition, if requested, they can often provide a speaker (for example, an organ recipient) who can share his/her personal experience with the students.

Assessment and Closure

You may want to use the Donation and Transplantation Quiz as a post-test to gauge students’ knowledge and understanding of this issue after the lesson is complete. It may also be helpful to remind students that the decision to donate is a very personal one and that it is okay for them to decide they want to be a donor – or not. Either way, we respect their feelings and their decision. And, they can always change their mind in the future, as they learn more about this topic. Please also remind them of the importance of talking with their family about this issue and their decision, especially before they go to get their driver’s license when they will be asked if they wish to be a donor.

Donation and Transplantation Quiz



“I know that people are on organ donation lists and they need organs just to live or to live a better life.”

Ryan Hastings, Age 16

1. List three organs that can be transplanted.

2. List three tissues that can be transplanted.

3. If I choose to be a potential organ/tissue donor, I should:

- a) Learn the facts about donation and transplantation.
- b) Let my family know my wishes.
- c) Say “yes” to donation at the DMV office when I get my license.
- d) All of the above.

4. One person’s donation can result in helping:

- a) People who need life-saving organ transplants.
- b) People who need life-enhancing tissue transplants.
- c) The family of the donor cope with the loss.
- d) All of the above.

5. T F If someone isn’t registered as a donor, family permission is required before organ and tissue donation can take place.

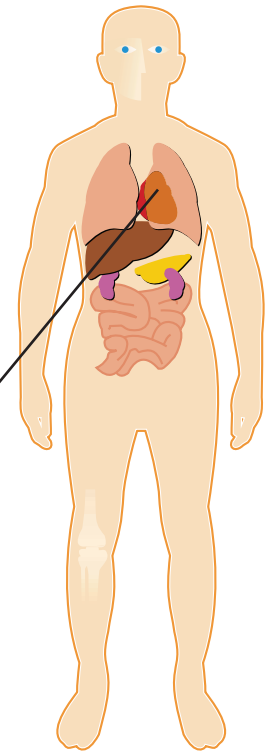
6. T F It is impossible for a person to recover from brain death.

7. T F Blood and bone marrow can be donated from living donors.

8. T F If I register as a donor, I’ll be less likely to receive good medical care if I am sick or injured.

9. T F One organ and tissue donor can help save lives or improve the lives of as many as 50 individuals and ease the pain and suffering of many others.

Which organs and tissues can be transplanted?



Name _____

Quiz Answers

Donation and Transplantation Quiz Answers

1. Any combination of heart, intestine, kidneys, liver, lungs, pancreas.
2. Any combination of blood, bone, bone marrow, cartilage, corneas/eyes, heart valves, ligaments, saphenous veins, tendons, skin.
3. D — all of the above.
4. D — all of the above.
5. TRUE
6. TRUE
7. TRUE
8. FALSE
9. TRUE





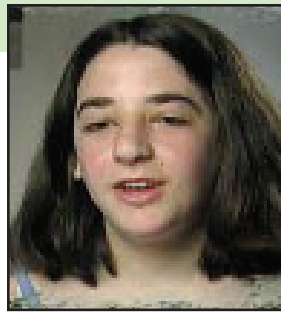
“I think it’s a really noble thing to leave something that you don’t need to people and save their lives.”

Larisa Kurkovic, Age 16

Share Your Opinion

Circle all of the statements that describe your feelings about organ and tissue donation.

1. I have heard of organ and tissue donation before, but I have never thought about what I want to do.
2. I am too young to be a donor because I don’t have a driver’s license or a learner’s permit.
3. I worry about being in a coma and having the doctors take my organs before I am dead.
4. I would become an organ and tissue donor — why be buried with your organs when someone else could use them?
5. If I needed an organ transplant and someone died, I would want that person to help me by donating his/her organs.
6. I am concerned that if I register as a donor and get into an accident, they might not work as hard to save my life.
7. I have seen the effects of donation and transplantation and I would want to help another person in the same way.
8. I would not become an organ and tissue donor because I’m afraid of how my body would be treated.
9. My thoughts about organ and tissue donation really don’t matter — it’s all up to my parents anyway.
10. In addition to the statements above, my feelings about organ and tissue donation are:



“You can save the lives of a lot of people.”

Anna Seidman, Age 16

Which organs and tissues?

Organ — A somewhat independent part of the body composed of various tissues that perform a special function or functions.

Heart transplants help patients suffering from heart failure. Some common causes of heart failure are congenital defects and cardiomyopathy.

Intestine transplants help children who were born with an incomplete intestinal system.

Kidney transplants help patients suffering from severe kidney failure. Kidney failure is often caused by complications of diabetes or hypertension.

Liver transplants help patients suffering from severe liver failure. Some common causes of liver failure are Hepatitis C, biliary atresia and cirrhosis.

Lung transplants help patients suffering from emphysema, cystic fibrosis or other lung diseases.

Pancreas transplants help insulin-dependent diabetic patients by eliminating the need for insulin injections and reducing the risk of losing sight or limbs.

Tissue — A group of specialized cells that perform a special function.

Blood transfusions help people who have lost blood due to an accident or injury, as well as cancer patients and surgical patients who require replacement of blood products.

Bone is used for reconstruction related to trauma, cancerous tumors, degenerative diseases and fractures.

Cornea transplants restore sight to those with corneal damage or disease.

Heart valve transplants help patients requiring replacement of malfunctioning heart valves.

Saphenous vein transplants help patients requiring coronary by-pass surgery in which veins are used to replace diseased or blocked arteries.

Ligament and tendon transplants help patients suffering from joint injuries.

Skin transplants help burn patients.

Myths and Misconceptions

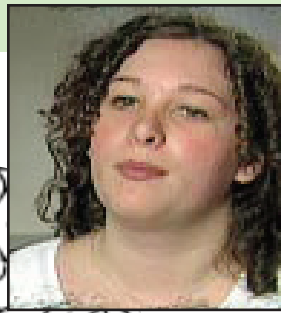


“I would become an organ donor because if I needed an organ and someone else died, I would want them to help me.”

Leslie Lule, Age 16

- 1. The decision to donate will affect medical treatment of the patient.**
FALSE. The quality of medical and nursing care a patient receives in a hospital will not change, regardless of your decision about donation. Organ and tissue donation is considered only after a person is dead. Transplant surgical teams are, by law, forbidden to take any part in the donor’s medical care (unlike what you might see on fictional television shows). They only become involved after death has occurred.
- 2. A person’s family must pay additional expenses when organs and tissues are donated.**
FALSE. There is no charge to the family for donation of organs and tissues. Any costs related to the family’s donation are paid for by the organ bank, tissue bank and/or eye bank and passed on to the recipient. Funeral and burial or cremation costs remain the family’s responsibility.
- 3. Customary funeral arrangements and open-casket funerals are not possible after donation.**
FALSE. Organ/tissue donation is a surgery that is performed professionally and respectfully. It does not interfere with customary funeral practices, including an open casket. Prosthetic devices replace donated bone or corneas. Incisions to remove organs/tissues are made where clothing would cover the body.
- 4. Religions disapprove of organ and tissue donation.**
FALSE. Research shows the vast majority of religious groups support organ and tissue donation and transplantation as a charitable act of giving. Some groups have taken a very proactive stance in recent years, feeling that a resolution or adopted position encourages people to seriously consider donation and plan accordingly. This appears to be an increasing trend.
- 5. Rich or famous people receive donated organs/tissues more quickly than others.**
FALSE. Organs are offered to transplant surgeons for their patients first on a local basis, then regionally, then nationally. At each level, offers are determined solely by a combination of medical factors such as degree of illness, blood type, the size of the organ needed and the length of time the patient has been waiting. No consideration is given to social factors such as wealth or celebrity status.
- 6. Having a “heart” on my North Carolina driver’s license means I am a donor and I do not have to tell anyone of my wishes about donation.**
FALSE. Until you are 18 years old, your parents/guardians must consent before donation can occur. You may register at the DMV or online, but until you turn 18, this is only considered an indication of your wishes (not consent). So, in addition to registering as a donor (either at the DMV or online), you should tell your family about your decision.

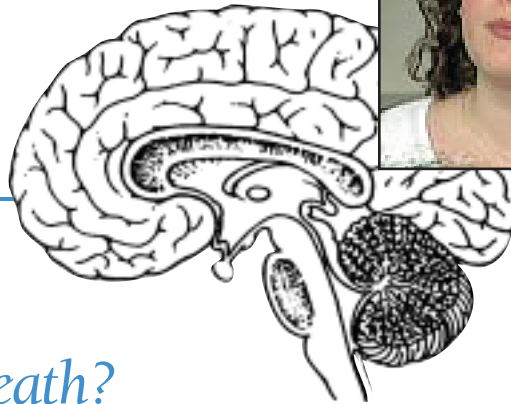
Once a person turns 18, the heart on the driver’s license is considered legal consent for donation in North Carolina. This means that no additional permission is needed and the donor’s wishes will be honored. However, we strongly encourage you to let your family know how you feel about donation.



“It’s important that you can give life.”

Tatiana Grubisich, Age 16

Brain Death



What is brain death?

- The total, irreversible destruction of the brain and brain stem.
- An established medical and legal diagnosis of death.

What causes brain death?

- **TRAUMA TO THE BRAIN**
Examples are severe head injury caused by a motor vehicle accident, a fall, a blow to the head, or a penetrating wound to the head.
- **CEREBROVASCULAR INJURY** (massive bleeding in the brain
Examples are massive stroke or a ruptured aneurysm.
- **ANOXIA** (loss of oxygen to the brain)
Examples are drowning, heart attack, or suffocation from smoke inhalation or drug overdose (when emergency procedures result in the restoration of heart beat, but not before lack of blood flow/oxygen to the brain has caused brain death).
- **BRAIN TUMOR**
Example is the uncontrollable growth of a brain tumor which can cause the permanent loss of blood flow/oxygen to the brain.

Brain death is not coma or persistive vegetative state (PVS).

Brain death may occur in patients who have suffered a severe, irreversible injury to the brain and brain stem. As a result of the injury, and despite all medical efforts, the brain swells and obstructs its own blood supply. Without blood flow, all brain tissue dies within a short period of time. Artificial support systems may maintain body functions, such as heart beat and respiration, for a few hours or days, but not permanently. A physician can confirm brain death, beyond a doubt, using a strict neurological examination.

BRAIN DEATH

All brain tissue is dead.

No blood flow to the brain.

No electrical activity present in the brain.

COMA OR PVS

A portion of the brain is injured.

Brain still receiving blood flow.

Electrical activity present in the brain.



The Donation Process, Step by Step

Mary Jones, a 17 year-old high school student, was driving home from band practice with friends when the auto accident happened. She was severely injured, and her dreams of a musical career abruptly ended that afternoon. This is what happened next.

1. Mary was **rushed to the hospital** with massive head injuries. **Every attempt was made to save her life.**
2. Mary's parents were told that Mary was not going to get better. Her brain continued to swell and by 4 a.m. **she was pronounced brain dead.**
3. At that time, the hospital and the organ procurement agency **offered Mary's parents the option of donation.**
4. Family members **discussed their feelings** about donation. Her parents remembered that when Mary got her driver's license, she told them that she wanted to help someone else by donating organs and tissues one day.
5. Mary's parents **gave their written consent** for Mary to become an organ/tissue donor.
6. Mary's body was **maintained on a ventilator** and stabilized with fluids and medications while **tests were completed** to assess which of her organs were suitable for transplant.
7. The surgical teams from the transplant centers receiving the organs were coordinated to arrive at the hospital for the organ recovery surgery.
8. Once the team was in place, Mary was taken to the operating room. Her organs were removed, cooled and preserved with special solutions while the transplant teams immediately returned to their hospitals to perform the transplant surgeries.
9. Next, Mary's tissues were recovered and her body was sent to the funeral home.
10. The organ, tissue and eye banks provided Mary's family with general information about the recipients of her donated organs and tissues.

CONFIDENTIALITY

While donor families are given general information about the recipients, the actual identities of both donor and recipient remain strictly confidential. Recipients and donor families can exchange letters through transplant centers and organ, tissue and eye banks. If both donor and recipients agree, they can be given an opportunity to correspond and/or meet.

Note: We have created an imaginary donor for purposes of illustrating the process of organ and tissue donation.

Types of Donors & Types of Donation

TYPES OF DONORS

- **Deceased Donors: Brain Death**

Organs are recovered in the operating room while heart function is temporarily maintained by mechanical support.

Acceptable donations: heart, intestine, kidneys, liver, lungs, pancreas, bone, cartilage, corneas/eyes, heart valves, ligaments, saphenous veins, tendons, skin.

- **Deceased Donors: Cardiac Death**

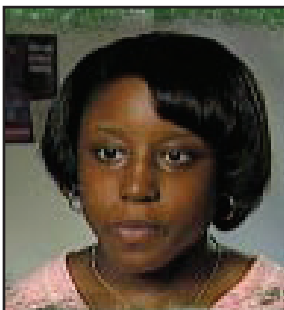
Organs are recovered in the operating room once mechanical support has been removed and death has been determined by the secession of cardio-pulmonary activity - that is both the heart and lungs have stopped functioning.

Acceptable donations: kidneys, liver, pancreas, lungs, and in rare cases, the heart, and also tissue including bone, cartilage, corneas/eyes, heart valves, ligaments, saphenous veins, tendons, skin.

- **Living Donors**

Living individuals who may or may not be related to the potential recipient(s).

Acceptable donations: kidney, partial liver, partial lung, partial pancreas, bone marrow, blood.



*“It’s helping somebody.
Helping them see...what you
would see if you were living.”*

Tanya Bernard, Age 16

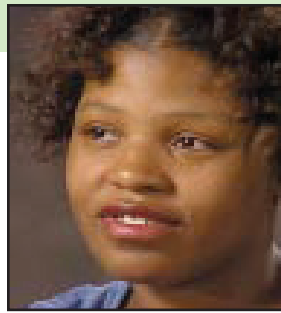
About Blood Donation

- Nine out of ten people who live to 70 will need blood during their lives.
- Only five percent of eligible donors give even one pint.
- Blood donors must be at least 17 years old, be in generally good health with no history of hepatitis or heart disease and not at risk for the HIV virus that causes AIDS.

About Bone Marrow Donation

- Leukemia, other cancers and other blood-related diseases can be successfully treated with bone marrow transplants.
- Recipients receive cells from a healthy donor intravenously to replace diseased cells.
- Within two to three weeks, transplanted bone marrow begins to produce normal blood cells.
- Nearly 70 percent of bone marrow transplant candidates cannot find a suitable match within their own families.
- Donors must be between 18 and 60 with no history of hepatitis, heart disease, cancer or the HIV virus that causes AIDS.

Steps to Making a Decision about Donation



“I talked to my mother about my decision to donate my organs.”

Katrina Bates, Age 21

Talk to your family about your wishes. Find out their wishes too.

A License to Give. On that much-anticipated day that you go to get your driver’s license, consider saying “yes” to being a donor on your license. A red heart in the bottom right hand corner of your license indicates that you want to be a donor. In North Carolina, a heart on your driver’s license is legally binding consent for organ and eye donation for those age 18 and older. This means you agree to donate your organs and corneas for transplant, or, if they cannot be transplanted, you agree that they could be used for medical research purposes. Registering as a donor at the DMV does **not include** tissue (e.g. bone, skin) donation, nor does it include whole body donation for research.

For those under age 18, the red heart on your license is considered an indication of your wishes, but your parents or legal guardian would make the final decision about donation on your behalf. So, if you are a teenager, it’s even more important to discuss your decision to join the registry and your desire to save lives with your family.

DonateLifeNC.org Another way that you can register as a donor is online at www.donatelifenc.org. If you register here, you can include tissue donation and you can be more specific about your wishes. For example, you can determine which organs or tissues you want to donate – and exclude those you do not want to donate. You can also register your decision about the disposition of your organs/tissues in case they cannot be used for transplant. Another benefit of the online registry is that it is available 24/7, so donors can update or change their records at any time. Once a person completes the online registration process, their online donor record supersedes their DMV record because it is more detailed.

Did You Know?

According to a Donate Life North Carolina 2008 survey:

- 9 in 10 North Carolinians support donation and a donor registry.
- Almost three-quarters of respondents report that they want to be a donor, but less than half (about 46%) of NC drivers have a donor designation (heart) on their license.
- Donate Life North Carolina and its member organizations are working to close that gap, so that there are more registered donors in North Carolina.



Writing a Thank-You Letter to the Donor Family



“... we would be more than willing to talk to the people who so generously gave their child’s heart.”

Sharon Pacific

Imagine you are the recipient.

Imagine you have received a transplant. Write a letter to the donor family to thank them for their gift. Start by deciding:

- What organ or tissue you received.
- Why you needed the transplant.

Elements you can include in your letter:

- What your life was like before the transplant.
- Why you needed the transplant and how long you waited.
- How the transplant has changed your life by mentioning activities you can do now that you couldn’t before. You might include any big events since your transplant — like graduation or a relative’s wedding — that you’ve been able to attend because of the transplant.
- Thank the family for their generous gift.

Aspects of communication to consider:

- How long would you wait before writing your letter and why?
- Would you like to hear back from your donor family?
- What would you want to learn about the person who donated — age, occupation, hometown?
- Would you ever want to meet your donor’s family?
- Because you can’t include your name, how will you sign your letter?



“There was an inner peace that was within me just from making the decision to donate.”

Katherine Bates
Mother of Stacy Bates,
an organ donor

Group Case Study

Mr. and Mrs. Carlson had just finished dinner when the phone rang. It was the local hospital advising them that their 17-year-old son, Michael, had just arrived by ambulance at the Emergency Department. The hospital staff asked them to come to the hospital at once.

When they arrived at the hospital, a nurse informed them that Michael had fallen from a ladder during his summer house painting job and he sustained a very serious head injury. Over the next 24 hours, Michael's condition steadily deteriorated despite all the medical attention he was receiving in the Intensive Care Unit.

After 48 hours, the doctors explained that Michael's prognosis was grave. Medical tests determined that the swelling of his brain from the trauma was extreme. After more tests were completed, the doctor and chaplain spoke with Mr. and Mrs. Carlson. They were informed that Michael was brain dead and that the ventilator would be removed.

Before the ventilator was discontinued, however, his parents were asked to consider donating Michael's organs and tissues for transplants. An organ donation coordinator from the local organ procurement organization (OPO) explained that Michael could be a donor and his heart, two kidneys, two lungs, liver, pancreas and small bowel could save the lives of eight people. His corneas could give sight to two people, and his other tissues could help countless patients suffering from burns, bone cancer and other conditions.

Michael's parents are Catholic and they are uncertain if they can donate as a result of their faith. They want to consult with their priest, to hear his perspective before they decide about donation. The hospital and OPO staff are waiting to follow their instructions.

Questions for discussion:

- What does "brain death" mean and how is it determined?
- What differences are there between organ donation and tissue donation?
- What laws authorize and govern donation? Who may legally give consent for organs and tissues to be removed for transplantation?
- Do you think there are circumstances in which a driver's license indication should not be followed? How about a donor registry record?
- Is it permissible to designate a donation to a specific individual? What about designating a donation to someone of a particular religion or ethnic background?
- How do various religions view organ donation and transplantation? If Michael's parents refuse to consent, is their interpretation of their religion accurate?

Group Case Study

Questions for discussion:

- **What does “brain death” mean and how is it determined?** Brain death is defined as the complete and irreversible loss of brain and brain-stem function. Two physicians who are not associated with organ recovery or transplant surgery determine brain death. A patient is declared brain dead only after both physicians have performed a series of tests and have determined that there are no brain stem reflexes and the person cannot breathe on their own (i.e., without the aid of a ventilator). See page 6.
- **What differences are there between organ donation and tissue donation?** Organs, such as the heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas and small intestine can be recovered from people who are dead using brain death criteria. These are patients who have died following severe brain injury and are being maintained on mechanical ventilation (ventilator). These patients have died in the hospitals and the ventilator can support their bodies for a limited time, thus allowing for the option of organ donation. These donors can also donate tissues. Individuals who die at home or in the community from cardiopulmonary arrest (heart and breathing have stopped) may donate tissues, such as corneas, skin, bone and heart valves. Tissues do not require blood flow to them, thus allowing for the removal of tissues from patients whose hearts have stopped beating. See page 8.
- **What laws authorize and govern donation? Who may legally give consent for organs and tissues to be removed for transplantation?** Laws surrounding donation and transplantation continue to evolve to support medical and surgical advances. The Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (UAGA) of 1968 established the original legal framework within which organ and tissue donation operates. North Carolina and all other states have enacted some form of the UAGA. In 2007, the North Carolina General Assembly passed the revised Uniform Anatomical Gift Act (called the “Heart Prevails” law – House Bill 1372; Session Law 2007-538). This law made the heart on the driver’s license legal consent for organ/eye donation for those age 18 and older, and also provided for the development of an online donor registry (at www.donatelifenc.org) so people can update, change or revoke their decision. In North Carolina, those under age 18 can register as donors, but it is not considered legal consent unless their parents or guardians agree to donation. The UAGA defines the rights and responsibilities of the donor and also defines who may authorize a gift of all or part of the decedent’s body in the event that the deceased individual is not a registered donor. In order of legal priority, the following people have the right to consent to donation: an authorized agent (for example, someone with healthcare power of attorney), spouse, adult children, parents, adult siblings, adult grandchildren, grandparents, an adult who exhibited special care or concern for the decedent, persons acting as guardians at time of death, any person having the authority to dispose of the decedent’s body.
- **Do you think there are circumstances in which a driver’s license should not be followed? How about a donor registry record?** Generally, our society believes in the autonomy of people making their own decisions in all areas of their lives, including death. A will is drawn up to make plans for a person’s eventual death, and the donor registry is similar. It allows the donor to determine what he/she wishes to happen after death and ensures that those wishes are honored. It is legal consent and, in a court of law, could be upheld. In the absence of any donor registration or other legal documentation, the family must make the decision using their best judgment. In North Carolina, having a heart on a driver’s license is considered legal consent for the recovery of organs and eyes for those age 18 and older.
- **Is it permissible to designate a donation to a specific individual? What about designating a donation to someone of a particular religion or ethnic background?** Individuals may not specify donation to a certain group of people. Donation takes place altruistically, with no consideration of who the recipient may be. In rare circumstances, organs can be directed to individuals on the waiting list. Then, if tissue and blood samples match up and other sharing requirements are met, the organ may be transplanted into the indicated recipient. This is known as “directed donation.”
- **How do various religions view organ donation and transplantation? If Michael’s parents refuse to consent, is their interpretation of their religion accurate?** People considering organ/tissue donation and transplantation often wonder if such acts are compatible with their religious beliefs. Research has found that most religions support donation and transplantation, or leave it to the individual to decide. In fact, a number of religions including United Methodists, Lutherans, Southern Baptists, and others, have adopted resolutions recognizing and encouraging donation. Catholics view organ donation as an act of charity, fraternal love and self-sacrifice. Transplants are ethically and morally acceptable to the Vatican. In August 2000, Pope John Paul II called organ donation “an act of love,” and told the International Congress of Transplant Specialists: “There is a need to instill in people’s hearts, especially in the hearts of the young generation, a genuine and deep appreciation of the need for brotherly love, a love that can find expression in the decision to become an organ donor.”

Dear (Parent/Guardian):

During _____ class, I learned about organ and tissue donation and transplantation. An important part of the lesson was the need for me to share my wishes about donation with my family. Until I am 18 years old, a family member must be the one to make the decision whether or not to donate my organs and/or tissues should something happen to me.

I want you to act upon my wishes as we will discuss and as I have written below. My feelings are as follows:

_____ I wish to be an organ and/or tissue donor.

_____ I do not wish to be an organ and/or tissue donor.

_____ I am not sure at this time.

Also, it is important for me to know how you feel about the subject. I want to talk with you about it. Thank you for taking the time to talk with me about organ and tissue donation. Following our discussion, you will know my wishes and I hope I will know yours.

Signature _____ Date _____



Queridos Padres o Guardián,

Durante _____ aprendí sobre la donación y trasplante de órganos y tejidos. La parte más importante de la lección fue la necesidad de compartir mis deseos con mi familia sobre la donación de órganos y tejidos. Hasta que tengo 18 años de edad, si algo pasara conmigo, un familiar tiene que hacer esta decisión en cuanto donar mis órganos o tejidos.

Yo quiero que ustedes actúen en mi nombre sobre mis deseos por lo cual vamos a hablar. Mis deseos son los siguientes:

_____ Deseo ser donante de órganos y/o tejidos.

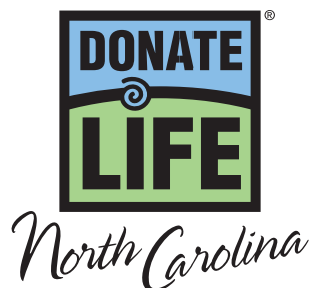
_____ No deseo ser donante de órganos y/o tejidos.

_____ No estoy seguro/a en este momento.

Además es importante que yo sepa como ustedes se sientan sobre este asunto. Gracias por tomar el tiempo para hablar conmigo sobre la donación y trasplante de órganos y tejidos. Al cabo de nuestra conversación, ustedes ya saben mis deseos y espero saber de sus deseos.

Firma _____

Fecha _____



Web Resources

National

American Association of Tissue Banks
www.aatb.org

American Diabetes Foundation
www.diabetes.org

American Heart Association
www.americanheart.org

American Liver Foundation
www.liverfoundation.org

American Lung Association
www.lungusa.org

American Red Cross
www.redcross.org

American Society of Transplant Surgeons
www.astso.org

American Transplant Association
www.americantransplant.org

Association of Organ Procurement Organizations
www.aopo.org

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
www.cff.org

Department of Health & Human Resources
www.organdonor.gov

Donate Life America
www.donatelife.net

Eye Bank Association of America
www.restoresight.org

Minority Organ and Tissue Transplant
Education Program
www.nationalmottep.org

National Kidney Foundation
www.kidney.org

National Marrow Donor Program
www.marrow.org

Nicholas Green Foundation
www.nicholasgreen.org

Organ Transplant Support, Inc.
www.geocities.com/otsfriends

Transplant Living
www.transplantliving.org

United Network for Organ Sharing
www.unos.org

North Carolina

Donate Life North Carolina
www.donatelifenc.org

Carolina Donor Services
www.carolinadonorservices.org

LifeShare Of The Carolinas
www.lifesharecarolinas.org

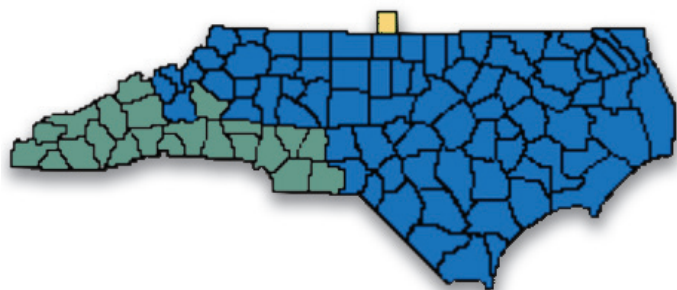
The North Carolina Eye Bank
www.nceyebank.org

A License to Give

Share Your Life. Share Your Decision.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To request speakers, posters, brochures, or other materials free of charge, or, if you have questions or comments about these materials, please contact the organization below responsible for your county.



Green Counties are served by:

LifeShare Of The Carolinas

1-800-932-GIVE

www.lifesharecarolinas.org

Blue and Yellow Counties are served by:

Carolina Donor Services

1-800-200-2672

www.carolinadonorservices.org

The North Carolina Eye Bank

1-800-552-9956

www.nceyebank.org



North Carolina

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DonateLifeNC.org