

Honoring Your Loved One's Decision

Donor Designation: The Facts

The fact that your loved one registered to be a donor is a testament to their generosity and concern for others. Donor designation is a person's documented decision to donate organs, tissues and eyes at the time of his or her death, and is a binding authorization recognized by state law and honored by LifeLink. Your loved one's donation coordinator will share documentation of your loved one's decision—known as a document of gift—with you. A document of gift is irreversible and does not require the permission of any other person.

Next Steps

Your donation coordinator will review the timeline for the donation process with you.

The determination of whether your loved one's gifts will be used for transplantation, education and/or research is made during a review of medical records, laboratory results, the medical/social history and a visual assessment of the organs or tissues. Blood and tissue samples will be used for infectious disease and laboratory testing.

Specially trained staff from LifeLink and/or the Eye Bank will recover your loved one's donation. Multiple organizations work with LifeLink to prepare or allocate your loved one's gifts to people in need. Organs, tissue or eyes may be shared nationally or internationally. Tissue may be transplanted up to five years after the donation.

Current and past medical records including autopsy results, if performed, will be released to all organizations responsible for managing your loved one's gifts of organs, tissues, or eyes.

Overwhelmingly, donor families share that their loved one's decision to be a donor helped them in their grief journey. We hope that your loved one's legacy of life will bring you comfort in the months and years ahead.



Testing For Antibodies To The Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)

In accordance with local applicable statutes and/or national regulatory requirements, all organ and tissue donations require blood testing to detect the presence of antibodies to HIV, the virus that causes Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

Testing will be performed for antibodies to HIV. The test is important to ensure that the appropriate evaluation can be undertaken to prevent transmission of the virus to others.

Blood tests for the virus, which is the cause of AIDS, are not 100% accurate and these blood tests sometimes produce false positive or false negative test results. All confirmed positive results will be reported in accordance with state law.

A positive test may indicate the following:

- An exposure to the virus that causes AIDS and this exposure may or may not cause the development of AIDS in the future.
- The result may be a false positive.

A negative test may indicate the following:

- No exposure to the virus that causes AIDS.
- An exposure to AIDS, but where antibodies have not yet developed to produce a positive test.
- The result may be a false negative.

If the test results are positive, tissue will not be acceptable for transplant. In certain circumstances, organs may still be recovered for transplant.

The test results will remain confidential, except that the test results may be disclosed to those directly involved in the care of the person tested, and as is otherwise allowed by law.