

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## Organ Donations:

**1. How can I be assured that my donation decision will be carried out?**

First, discuss your wishes with your family because your next-of-kin will be requested to give consent for donation at the time of your death. Then sign a donor card or driver license sticker in the presence of two witnesses and carry it with you at all times.

**2. Can the next-of-kin consent to a donation if the deceased family member has not signed either a donor card or a driver's license?**

Yes. The Public Health Code provides for this opportunity.

**3. Can my donation decision be included in a will?**

Yes. However, since organ donations must occur promptly, this will normally be ineffective because wills are rarely read, let alone probated, until long after the time for the organ donation has passed. Still, the time of making a will may be a good time to discuss donation with family members. The discussion with your next-of-kin is most important.

**4. Who can be a donor?**

Almost anyone. Poor health, poor eyesight and age do not prohibit you from becoming a donor. However, some of these factors do influence the likelihood of the tissues being suitable for transplant. Organs and tissues that cannot be used for transplants, however, can often be used for research to help scientists find cures or better treatments for serious illness.

**5. Will donation affect my funeral arrangements?**

No. The donation is performed within hours after death, so funeral arrangements may proceed as planned. Removal of organs leaves no visible signs that would interfere with a normal open casket viewing.

**6. Will my family pay or receive any fees for donation?**

No. It is illegal to buy or sell human eyes, organs, and tissues.

**7. Will the quality of medical treatment be affected if one is a known donor?**

Strict laws protect the potential donor. Legal guidelines must be followed before death can be verified. The physician certifying a patient's death cannot be involved in any way with the donation or with the transplant.

**8. How can I obtain more information regarding organ, tissue and eye donation?**

Contact the Transplantation Society of Michigan at 1-800-482-4881 for a donor card or more information about this life-saving decision. Contact the Michigan Eye Bank at 1-800-247-7250 for questions specific to eye donation.

# DONATION FORM

*Fold and mail to:* Transplantation Society of Michigan, 2203 Platt Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Questions? Please feel free to call: *1-800-247-7250 or 1-800-482-4881*

Uniform Donor Card

of \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Print or type name of donor)*

In the hope that I may help others, I hereby make this anatomical gift if medically acceptable, to take effect upon my death. The words and marks below indicate my desires.

I give (a) \_\_\_\_\_ any needed organs or physical parts.

(b) \_\_\_\_\_ only the following organs or physical parts:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*(Specify the organ(s) or physical part(s))*

For the purpose of transplantation, therapy, or medical research or education;

(c) \_\_\_\_\_ my body for anatomical study if needed.

Limitations or special wishes, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by the donor and the following 2 witnesses in the presence of each other:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature of donor*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date of birth of donor*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date signed*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City and date*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Witness*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Witness*