



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

You are not required to apply for a New York State driver license, permit or non-driver photo ID card to become an organ and tissue donor. To become an organ and tissue donor, you may simply contact the NYS Department of Health (DOH) or an organ donation organization listed on the bottom of this page. The NYS DOH maintains New York State’s organ, eye and tissue donor registry.

## ABOUT THE DONOR REGISTRY

- The New York State organ and tissue donor registry that existed from June 2000 until July 2008 was a registry of intent. It contains the names of individuals who **intend** to be organ, eye and tissue donors; but **intent** does not constitute legal **consent** to be a donor. If you are listed in the old DOH **intent** registry, family consent will still be required for donation to occur upon your death.
- In response to a new law, DOH created a new *Donate Life*<sup>SM</sup> Organ and Tissue Donor Registry in July 2008. This new **consent** registry contains only the names of individuals who have legally **consented** to be donors. For those whose names are in the consent registry, no family consent is required for donation to occur at the time of death.
  - To ensure that your decision to be a donor will be honored upon your death, you must join the new **consent** registry by enrolling through DMV or DOH, or by mail via a uniform enrollment form available through your local organ donation organization (see below).
  - Since July 22, 2008, DMV has provided customers the opportunity to **consent** to be donors and be enrolled in the New York State Donate Life<sup>SM</sup> **consent** registry. “ORGAN DONOR” is automatically printed on your DMV photo document if you enroll through DMV.
  - Since August 1, 2008, the New York State Department of Health has allowed people to enroll in the consent registry through the DOH website. Doing so does not affect your DMV photo document.

## ABOUT DONATION

- You must be at least 18 years of age to **consent** to donate.
- Your decision to donate will not affect your medical treatment. Donation is not considered until all efforts to save a person’s life have failed.
- The organs and tissues you donate will go to patients in the greatest need. As many as 50 people can benefit from a single donor.
- There is no cost to the donor’s family.
- Your name may be removed from the registry at any time by contacting DOH directly (*see below*).
- After you enroll, the NYS Department of Health will mail you a confirmation letter to provide you with additional information and an opportunity to limit your donation, if you choose to do so.

If you enroll **through DMV**, the words “**ORGAN DONOR**” will be printed on your DMV photo document.



**Please note:** If you enrolled to become a donor through DMV before July 22, 2008, the “ORGAN DONOR” on your DMV photo document indicates **intent not consent**. To **consent** to be a donor, you must re-enroll in the new *Donate Life*<sup>SM</sup> **consent** registry.

If you enroll through DMV, **as part of** a license, permit or non-driver ID transaction, there will be no additional fee to have the “**ORGAN DONOR**” logo added to your photo document. Likewise, there will be no additional fee to remove the logo from your photo document, if requested **as part of** a license, permit or non-driver ID transaction (however, you **must** contact DOH directly to remove your name from the actual registry).

You may also request to add or remove the “**ORGAN DONOR**” logo to/from your photo document *as an independent* DMV transaction by applying at your local DMV office and paying the \$15 fee for a replacement photo document.

## You have the power to *Donate Life*<sup>SM</sup>.

For more information, contact the NYS Department of Health at: (866) 693-6667 or at [www.nyhealth.gov](http://www.nyhealth.gov)

**OR** call a donation organization listed below:

- Albany area . . . . . 1-(800)-256-7811
- Buffalo area. . . . . 1-(800)-227-4771
- Rochester/Syracuse area . . . . . 1-(800)-810-5494
- Metropolitan New York City area  
and Long Island . . . . . 1-(800)-GIFT-4-NY (1-800-443-8469)

