



# Top 10 Myths About Donation



Provided Courtesy of Donate Life Northwest [www.donatelifenw.org](http://www.donatelifenw.org) 503.494.7888  
If you have any questions about the facts below, feel free to call our office for more information. We're here to help!

**Myth:** "I heard about a guy who woke up one morning after a party. He was in a bathtub full of ice, and his kidneys were stolen and sold on the black market."

**Fact:** This story is impossible. There is not a single documented case of this ever happening. Matching donors & recipients is a complex procedure that requires highly-trained medical professionals and thorough testing. It is illegal to buy and sell human organs in the United States.

**Myth:** "Rich and famous people get moved to the top of the transplant list, while 'regular' people have to wait longer for a transplant."

**Fact:** Ranking of the waiting list does not consider factors such as race, age, income or social status. Factors that *are* considered are blood type, medical urgency, geographic location, organ size, tissue match and time spent waiting.

**Myth:** "If I'm in an accident and the hospital knows I'm an organ donor, the doctors won't try to save my life."

**Fact:** Health care providers will make all efforts to save your life. Organ, eye and tissue recovery happens only after all life-saving efforts have been exhausted and death has been legally declared. An entirely different team of doctors is called in to manage the organ recovery.

**Myth:** "My religion does not approve of donation."

**Fact:** Most major religions support organ donation. Some leave it to personal choice; others encourage it and consider it a charitable act.

**Myth:** "My family will be burdened with the medical costs of my organ donation."

**Fact:** Your family will never have to pay for the donation process.

**Myth:** "If I donate, the recipient or his/her family will continuously contact my family."

**Fact:** Your family's information will never be released to a recipient without their consent. Communication is screened carefully by the organ procurement organization.

**Myth:** "I have a history of medical illness. My organs aren't good enough to donate."

**Fact:** Illness shouldn't stop anyone from registering as a donor. One person can save and enhance more than 50 lives. After a person's death, an OPO will determine which organs are suitable for transplant.

**Myth:** "I'm too young (or too old) for my organs to be used."

**Fact:** There are no age limits for organ donation. *Parents will make the final decision for minors who become potential donors.* The use of organs depends on the health of the organ, not the age of the donor.

**Myth:** "I hear they take everything...even if I only want to donate my kidneys."

**Fact:** You can decide which of your organs & tissues to make available for donation. It is a simple process of checking boxes when you register to be a donor.

**Myth:** "Organ and tissue donation will leave my body badly mutilated and not presentable for a funeral or memorial service."

**Fact:** Donated organs are removed surgically, similar to gallbladder or appendix removal. Donation does not disfigure the body or change its appearance in a casket.