

Anatomical Gifts

Anatomical gifts are donations of organs, tissues, eyes and entire bodies used for:

- organ transplants;
- instruction in medical and dental schools;
- surgical implants for injuries and diseases; and
- medical research.

All major religions support organ and tissue donation.

Organ Donation

Enroll with the New York State Donate Life Registry to be an organ donor. Signing the back of your driver's license is helpful, but it's possible no one will be able to find your license if the situation arises where you could be an organ donor.

You can enroll when you next visit the New York State DMV or when you register to vote. You can also enroll online or download a form through donorrecovery.org to send via the U.S. Postal Service.

Your intent to donate should be noted in your advance directives and medical records, as well as shared with your family.

There is no cost to a donor's family for organ and tissue donation.

If you have arranged to be an organ donor with the alternative of whole body donation, organ donation has priority. If there are no viable organs, whole body donation is possible. A body from which organs have been removed is not acceptable.

Eye Donation

The corneas of even elderly donors are gratefully accepted.

Tissue Donation

According to the American Association of Tissue Banks, there is not an acute shortage of tissue. Processed tissues are used for transplant, dermatology, research, training purposes and made into a wide range of products.

Whole Body Donation

Most people over the age eighteen qualify as donors. There is no upper age limit and few medical conditions disqualify a body. Most medical schools require that a donor register before death.

As with organ donation, you should indicate your intent to donate in your advance directives and share that

information with your family, along with instructions about how to proceed at the time of your death.

Free transportation to medical schools is not available in the southern Finger Lakes region; that service must be provided by a funeral director.

There are a few conditions that may render a body unacceptable for medical donation that may not be obvious until the time of death. These include infectious diseases, autopsy, amputation, obesity, and disfigurement due to disease or accident. You should always have a back-up plan for disposition of a body in case your donation is refused.

After medical study, the body is usually cremated and the cremated remains buried in a university plot or scattered. Some medical schools return the remains to the family for final disposition within a year or two, if requested in advance.

Organizations Serving the Finger Lakes Area of New York State

SUNY Upstate Medical University Anatomical Gift Program

Dept. of Cell & Developmental
Biology 766 Irving Ave., Rm. 1133
Syracuse, NY 13210
Tel. (315) 464-4348
www.upstate.edu/cdb/donor

University of Rochester Medical Center Anatomical Gift Program

601 Elmwood Avenue, Box 603
Rochester, NY 14642
Tel. (585) 275-2592
www.urmc.rochester.edu/anatomical-gift.aspx

Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network

Corporate Woods of Brighton
Building 30, Suite 220
Rochester, NY 14623
Tel. (800) 810-5494
www.donorrecovery.org

Central New York Eye and Tissue Bank

517 East Washington Street
Syracuse NY, 13202
Tel. (315) 476-0199
www.cnyetb.com

Lions Eye Bank at Rochester
100 Corporate Woods, Suite 130
Rochester, NY 14623
Tel. (585) 272-7890
www.lionseyebankrochester.org

National organizations licensed in New York State

**International Institute for the
Advancement of Medicine**
www.iiam.org

LifeLegacy Foundation
www.sciencecare.com/life-legacy

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Organ, Eye, Tissue and Whole Body Donation



Prepared by the
Funeral Consumers Alliance
of the Finger Lakes

www.fingerlakesfunerals.org

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