

**Kansas Organ and Tissue Donor Registry**  
**FAQs: New First-Person Authorization Registry**

- 1. How do I sign up to be an organ and tissue donor?** You can sign up by saying “YES,” when asked: *“Do you wish to be included on the Organ Donor Registry and authorize the organ donor symbol to be put on your driver’s license or identification card?”* at the DMV office when obtaining or renewing your driver’s license. Or, you can access [www.mwtn.org](http://www.mwtn.org), and print a Kansas Organ Donor Registration Form. Complete the form and send it to Donate Life Kansas c/o Midwest Transplant Network, 1900 W. 47<sup>th</sup> Place, Suite 400, Westwood, KS 66201.
- 2. By joining the registry, am I signing up for a mailing list?** NO. Your registry information is used only to record your decision to donate anatomical gifts. By law, this information can only be shared with organizations that recover organs and tissues that need to determine a person’s donor designation status. No other use or sharing of your information is allowed. You will receive no “junk” mail by joining the Kansas Organ and Tissue Donor Registry.
- 3. When will the new online registry be available? What happens if I register in the interim?** The new registry is currently under development and will be available in the fall or winter of 2010. If you register at the DMV after July 1, 2010, your information will be in the registry and will only be considered first-person consent if your driver license with a symbol and/or your signed registration form submitted to MTN is available for confirmation purposes. When the new registry is operational, all DMV registrants after July 1, 2010 will be uploaded to the new, first-person consent registry.
- 4. What do Kansas DMVs ask when people renew/obtain a driver’s license?**  
“Do you wish to be included on the Organ Donor Registry and authorize the organ donor symbol to be put on your driver’s license or identification card?”
- 5. As my children become of age to obtain a driver’s license, as a parent, if my 16-year-old signs up, will I, as his/her parent, be able to override his decision?**  
Anyone under the age of 18 can be in the registry, but legal next-of-kin would have to also give consent. Legal next-of-kin could override the minor, even if he/she is in the registry.

**6. Will my family or legal next of kin have any say-so at the time of my death regarding organ and tissue donation?** If you are registered as a donor, no one can override your wishes after your death. However, MTN and the eye banks serving Kansas believe that the charitable act of donating anatomical gifts is often a source of great comfort for family and friends following a person's death. As a result, our practice is to inform the family of your wishes and work with them to complete the process to ensure your gifts can be utilized to save or improve the lives of others in need.

**7. How many Kansans are currently in the statewide organ and tissue donor registry?**  
There are slightly more than 600,000.

**8. What does first-person authorization mean? What makes the Kansas Organ and Tissue Donor Registry new as first-person consent?**

A documented decision to donate has been legally binding since 1968 in Kansas – in the form of a signed donor card or back of the driver's license, driver's license bearing the donor symbol on the front or a legal will. What is new is that the state donor registry is now a documented decision to donate and is legally-binding. First-person consent registries uphold an individual's right to make his or her decision regarding organ and tissue donation, and no one else may overturn or bar another individual's decision.

**a. How is this different from an intent-only registry, as Kansas was previously?**

An intent-only registry is not legally-binding. So, previously in Kansas, a patient's loved one could block a decision to donate if there was no other document of gift (as listed above) available.

**9. How can I remove myself from the Kansas Organ and Tissue Donor Registry?**

Please write a letter indicating this request, and include your driver's license number and/or Social Security number to:

Kansas Donor Registry  
Midwest Transplant Network  
1900 W. 47<sup>th</sup> Pl. Suite 400  
Westwood, KS 66205

MTN will maintain confidentiality and requires driver's license and Social Security numbers to verify and confirm your identity.

**10. If I change my mind, is there another way to ensure that I will not be considered an organ and tissue donor while I am waiting to be removed from the registry?**

Yes. This can be done by executing a document or letter, signed by two people of legal age, one being a disinterested witness (not a family member) and carrying it with you. It is also important that you tell your family and/or legal next-of-kin so they will know that you do not wish to be a donor.

**11. How do I remove the heart donor symbol from my Kansas driver's license if I want to remove myself from the registry?**

This requires you to get a new driver's license, or carry an executed document or letter as described above in FAQ #10. The fee for obtaining a new driver's license without the donor symbol is \$20, and it is the responsibility of the individual seeking a new license to pay the fee.

**12. Will doctors still try to save my life if I'm listed in the Kansas first-person consent registry?**

The physicians responsible for your care if you are injured are different than the physicians who would remove and/or transplant an organ or tissue. By Kansas law, a physician caring for you at the time of your death cannot take part in the procedures to remove or transplant organs or tissues.

**13. If a person has a donor symbol on the front of his or her driver's license, (and since it doesn't matter if the back is signed or witnessed anymore to be a 'binding' contract), can they still specify what organs or tissues they want to donate? How will these specific wishes be respected?**

Yes, they can specify this information online when the Kansas registry is launched.

**14. How can I learn more about the Kansas Organ and Tissue Donor Registry? Where can I get more information?**

You may visit the following websites to learn more:

- Midwest Transplant Network – [www.mwtn.org](http://www.mwtn.org)
  - MTN on Facebook – [www.facebook.com/MidwestTransplantNetwork](http://www.facebook.com/MidwestTransplantNetwork)
- United Network for Organ Sharing – [www.unos.org](http://www.unos.org)
- Donate Life America – [www.donatelife.net](http://www.donatelife.net)

- Access to U.S. Information on Organ & Tissue Donation and Transplantation – [www.organdonor.gov](http://www.organdonor.gov)
- Heartland Lions Eye Banks – [www.hleb.org](http://www.hleb.org)
- Kansas Eye Bank & Cornea Research Center – [www.kansaseyebank.org](http://www.kansaseyebank.org)
- Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network – <http://optn.transplant.hrsa.gov/>