

Check Your Heart Act Q&A

Michigan is the first state to provide the opportunity for income tax filers to register as organ donors.

What form will the organ donor question appear on?

Form 4642, the Michigan voluntary contributions schedule.

When will this take effect?

The question will appear in 2024 for the 2023 tax year.

What will the Department of Treasury do with organ donor registrations?

Transfer them to the Michigan Department of State (MDOS), which maintains the Michigan Organ Donor Registry along with Gift of Life Michigan. MDOS will mail new registered donors a heart sticker for their Michigan driver's license or ID.

CHECK YOUR HEART™



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1ST IN THE NATION

ORGAN DONOR REGISTRATION ON INCOME TAX FORMS



Donation Facts

Will doctors work as hard to save the lives of registered organ donors?

If you are sick or injured, the top priority of your hospital care team is to save your life. Organ donation is only considered when all efforts to save a patient have been exhausted.

Am I able to be a donor even though I have chronic illness?

Don't rule yourself out. A patient with diabetes might not qualify to donate kidneys but could have healthy lungs or a strong heart. Donors with HIV can donate to waiting patients with HIV. Medical teams decide which organs and tissues are suitable for transplant on a case-by-case basis.

Is there an age limit to donate?

There is no age limit for organ donation. Many donors older than 60 — and some in their 80s or 90s — have saved lives. Gift of Life Michigan helped a 101-year-old woman become a tissue donor in 2022. Your medical condition at the time of death will determine whether your organs and tissues are healthy enough to help another person.

Does my religion prohibit organ and tissue donation?

Most major religions in the U.S. either support organ and tissue donation as a final act of charity and love, or leave the decision up to the individual. If in doubt, ask your spiritual or religious leader.

Will donation interfere with my funeral arrangements? Can I have an open casket?

Donation need not interfere with funeral plans, including an open casket. The donor's body is treated with the utmost respect. Gift of Life has relationships with funeral homes across Michigan.

I've had COVID-19, can I still donate? Does it matter whether I've been vaccinated or not?

Patients who have been exposed to or contracted COVID-19 can still donate organs and tissue. Even lungs that were infected might still be suitable for transplant if the donor was asymptomatic at the time of donation. Being vaccinated (or not) for COVID-19 does not affect end-of-life donation eligibility.

How can I sign up to become an organ donor?

You can sign up when filing your Michigan income taxes, or anytime through the Michigan Secretary of State branch offices or online at Michigan.gov/OrganDonation. You can also sign up on the Gift of Life Michigan website golem.org/register. It only takes a few minutes to save a life, so Check Your Heart and add your name to the Michigan Organ Donor Registry today.

Thank you!

Thank you to the staff of the Michigan Department of Treasury. You will be helping save lives through organ and tissue donation!

Learn more at
Gift of Life Michigan
golem.org

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