Important FACTs for educating the public on organ, eye and tissue donation.

Despite continuing efforts at public education, misconceptions and inaccuracies about donation persist. Learn these FACTs to help you better understand organ, eye and tissue donation:

**FACT:** Anyone can be a potential donor regardless of age, race, or medical history.

**FACT:** All major religions in the United States support organ, eye and tissue donation and see it as the final act of love and generosity toward others.

**FACT:** If you are sick or injured and admitted to the hospital, the number one priority is to save your life. Organ, eye and tissue donation can only be considered after you are deceased.

**FACT:** When you are on the waiting list for an organ, what really counts is the severity of your illness, time spent waiting, blood type, and other important medical information, not your financial status or celebrity status.

**FACT:** An open casket funeral is possible for organ, eye and tissue donors. Through the entire donation process the body is treated with care, respect and dignity.

**FACT:** There is no cost to the donor or their family for organ or tissue donation.

**FACT:** Brain death is the irreversible end of all brain activity (including involuntary activity necessary to sustain life) due to total necrosis of the cerebral neurons following loss of brain oxygenation. Brain death should not be confused with a persistent vegetative state or coma. Patients classified as brain dead cannot recover and are legally dead.

**FACT:** In all US states, registering to be an organ, eye and tissue donor is the most important step you can take to ensure that your decision to be a donor will be honored. Registering to be a donor is of great help to your family as they will be faced with making a decision about donating your organs in the absence of your registration.