



Thank
You

Have you checked the organ donor box on your driver's license?

Yes, Dad checked the organ donor box on his driver's license, it's important to him. So, it's important to me to try to honor his wishes. How do we do this?

Currently:

- ♥ **120,000** People in the US are waiting for organ transplants and **8,000** die each year waiting.
- ♥ In Mississippi, the demand for organ transplant is **4 times the supply** – 1,300 on the wait list, only 300 operations per year.
- ♥ 30% of Mississippians have checked the “I want to be an organ donor” box on driver's licenses.
- ♥ ~40% of Mississippi deaths occur in hospice.

For additional information, please contact: Your local Organ Procurement Organization can be found on the US Department of Health & Human Services website: www.OrganDonor.gov.

In Mississippi, contact the Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency (800-690-8878, <https://msora.org>) or Midsouth Transplant Network in the Northwest corner of the state (913-262-1668, www.mwtn.org).

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v. 12/20/18

How Mississippi Hospices Can Help Solve Organ and Tissue Donation Shortages



♥ *Most people have expressed wishes to be an organ or tissue donor. The most appropriate time for people to discuss honoring these wishes is while in hospice.*

♥ *Hospices are expert in difficult end-of-life care conversations and advance care planning discussions. However, most of these conversations focus “upstream” to bring people into hospice. Aren’t “downstream” conversations about donation and funeral arrangements equally important in honoring patient and family wishes?*

♥ *Most advanced care planning documents do not specifically discuss organ or tissue donation.*

Mom loved to read. She considered it her greatest joy to share the gift of reading with someone else by donating her eyes after she died.



How can hospices more actively participate in organ and tissue donations?

1. Ask the question “***Have you checked the organ donor box on your driver’s license?***” as part of your admission process. This is an easy, non-invasive way to approach the topic. If the patient (or medical durable power of attorney) says yes, then contact your local Organ Procurement Organization.

Also, hospices might consider:

2. Include organ and tissue donation materials in the hospice admission packet.
3. Knowing that 1/3 of Mississippians have indicated desire to be organ donors on driver’s license registries should make the donation conversation more comfortable for everyone.
4. Hospices serve patients of all ages, and organ and tissue donors of all ages are needed.