



## ***Campus Campaign Myths, Misconceptions and FAQs***

- **Myth: “If I’m in an accident and the hospital knows I want to be a donor, the doctors won’t try to save my life.”**
  - Fact: Organ and tissue recovery takes place only after all efforts to save your life have been exhausted and death has been legally declared. The doctors trying to save your life are completely separate from the transplant surgeons involved in recovering organs and tissues, who are notified only after your death.
  
- **Myth: “I am too old or sick to be a donor.”**
  - Fact: Don’t self-diagnose and count yourself out. Let the doctors decide. Virtually anyone—regardless of age, race, gender and even many health conditions—can become an organ and/or tissue donor. One donor can potentially save or enhance the lives of more than 25 people.
  
- **Myth: “I want to be an organ donor, but I only want to donate certain organs or tissues.”**
  - Fact: **In Illinois**, you are either a donor or you are not. At this time, you are unable designate specific organs to donate or not to donate.
  
- **Myth: “I want to be a donor, but I want to be able to have an open casket. I don’t want them to damage my body.”**
  - Fact: Organ donation is the same as any other kind of surgery. Transplant surgeons are just as careful with the body of the person donating the organs as the person receiving them. Only the marks where the incisions are made are visible. It does not affect the ability to have an open casket at the funeral.
  
- **Myth: “I don’t think my religion supports organ and tissue donation.”**
  - The vast majority of religious groups support donation as the highest gesture of humanitarianism. Some religions have taken a proactive stance with a resolution or adopted a position that encourages people to seriously consider donation and plan accordingly.

[Click here](#) to view videos addressing myths and misconceptions.