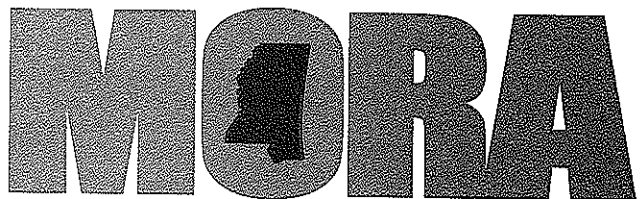


Organ & Tissue Donation Curriculum



MISSISSIPPI ORGAN RECOVERY AGENCY
a statewide resource for organ & tissue recovery



Information courtesy of the

Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency

The Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency (**MORA**) is an independent, not-for-profit, organ procurement agency (OPO), one of approximately 62 OPOs in the nation. It is the federally-designated agency authorized in Mississippi to procure organs for transplant and research. MORA also provides tissue recovery services in hospitals throughout the state.

MORA works with hospitals to ensure that all potential donors are appropriately identified and referred for evaluation before families are given the option of donation.

Our central office is in **Jackson**, with satellite offices in **Tupelo**, **Meridian** and **Ocean Springs**. MORA procures organs based on state need first—for the state's only transplant program at the University of Mississippi Medical Center. If the organs are not a genetic match for a Mississippian, MORA places them with other transplant programs in the region and in the nation.

Our staff is responsible for all aspects of the donation process, recovery and placement of organs. MORA secures and imports organs from other states for transplantation purposes. In addition, our agency offers donor families with bereavement services, and provides support services to transplant recipients. MORA acts as a statewide resource for any information relating to organ/tissue donor awareness and education. MORA provides educational services free of charge to hospitals, medical professionals, teachers, students and the general community.

Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency, Inc.

Toll-free Information Line: (800) 690-8878

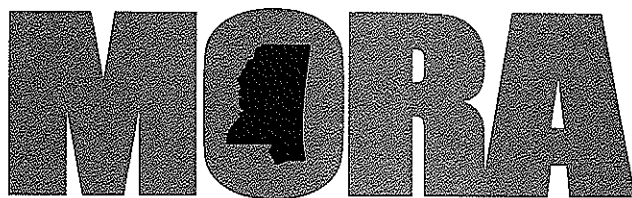
www.msora.org

MORA Central Office
12 River Bend Place
Jackson, Mississippi 39232
(601) 933-1000

North Mississippi Regional Office
350 North Church Street
Tupelo, Mississippi 38804
(662) 841-1960

Gulf Coast Regional Office
1015 Howard Avenue, Suite A
Biloxi, MS 39530
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1181 Bonita Lake Circle, Suite 127
Meridian, MS 39301
(601) 485-5630



MISSISSIPPI ORGAN RECOVERY AGENCY

Our Mission

The Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency, coordinates the recovery of human organs and tissues for transplantation by working with and providing education to medical professionals, donor families and the people of Mississippi.

a statewide resource for organ & tissue recovery

Introduction

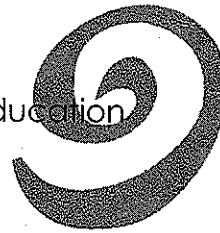
As an educator, you have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of your students, their families and countless others who may be touched by the impact of decisions made as a result of your use of this curriculum. This program is designed to present students with basic information about organ and tissue donation. It is our hope that students will take this information home and share it with their families. Teachers, students and parents are encouraged to contact the Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency for more information or answers to any specific questions.

Depending upon the amount of advance notice and the location, it may be possible to make arrangements for a guest speaker (a MORA staff member, donor family member, transplant recipient or family member). If you are interested in this type of program, please contact MORA.

Contact Names:

Charlotte Mullinnix, Director of Community Education
1-662-841-1960, cmullinnix@msora.org

James Laird, Volunteer Services Coordinator
1-601-933-1000, jlaird@msora.org



Materials for Teachers:

- The video tape features an introduction by Ralph McDonald, Mississippi State Department of Education and liver transplant recipient. The tape also includes the video selection, "Share your Life, Share your Decision", a look at transplantation and donation featuring teen perspectives, courtesy of Gift of Hope of Illinois, (14:00)
- Curriculum booklet and information concerning overhead transparencies

Goals:



- Using the information provided, students should be able to:
- Identify organs and tissues that can be transplanted
 - Discuss the urgent need for organ and tissue donation and transplantation
 - Identify the important issues that should be discussed and answered before ever making an informed decision about donation
 - Make an informed decision based on sound principals
 - Take information home to share with parents, other family members and friends

Teachers - For Your Information

Over the last three decades, medical advancements have made it possible to transplant human organs and tissues with much success. Current medical technology allows the transplantation of skin, cornea, bone, kidney, heart, lung, pancreas, liver, intestine, and heart valve. Transplantation of vital human organs, one of the most complex medical endeavors, is no longer considered an experimental procedure, but, is a common lifesaving therapy.

Transplantation can only occur if donated organs and tissues are available. The need for continues to far exceed donations in all areas of the country.

In the United States:

- More than 80,000 people desperately need some type of organ transplant. In many instances, recipients need multiple organ transplants to enjoy a healthy life. For instance, people suffering from diabetes who need a pancreas transplant may also need a kidney transplant since diabetes often leads to renal failure.
- More than half of the people on the national transplant list are waiting for a kidney transplant to free them from dialysis— a procedure which connects the patient to a machine for hours at a time, several days per week to filter the blood of impurities.
- Every 14 minutes a new name is added to the national transplant waiting list. That's almost 100 names each day!
- Due to the severe shortage of organs, each day 16 people lose their fight for life as they wait for transplant— that means one person dies every two hours waiting for their chance for a healthy life.
- Thousands more need life enhancing tissue transplants, such as a cornea transplant to restore sight.
- A national sharing system distributes organs according to medical criteria such as blood type, body size, genetic makeup and medical urgency.
- One organ and tissue donor can help more than 50 different people!

Although most people (85% of all adults asked this question) say they support organ donation, very few have actually signed a donor card. Even less have taken the initiative to talk to their families about donation— to make certain that their wishes are known in case of an unexpected death.

Our hope is to prompt students and families to talk about this important issue. In many cases, organ donation is the result of a tragic and untimely accident. Families are not prepared to make the final decisions that face them.

After reviewing this information, please contact the Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency (MORA) if we can be of further assistance and for additional information.



For Your Information!



- More than **80, 000 people** need an organ transplant. In many instances, recipients need multiple organ transplants for a healthy life.
- More than half (**over 40, 000 people**) are waiting for a kidney transplant to free them from a life of dialysis.
- Every **14 minutes** a new name is added to the national transplant waiting list- almost 100 names each day!
- Each day **16 people** lose their fight for life waiting for a transplant- one person dies every two hours.
- A national sharing system distributes organs according to **medical criteria** such as blood type, body size, genetic make-up and medical urgency.
- **One organ and tissue donor** can help more than 50 different people!



**The Mississippi Organ Recovery Agency will provide
(free of charge) the following pages in the form of
overhead transparencies for any teacher or school
requesting this option.**

Please allow one week to process the request.

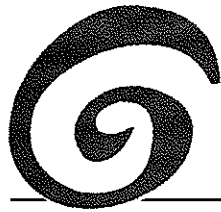
**To receive the transparencies or to request any
other donor-related materials, please contact us
and provide name, mailing address and phone
number.**

**Contact: Charlotte Mullinnix
cmullinnix@msora.org
(phone) 662-841-1960
(fax) 662-841-1956**



What can be donated & Who will it help ?

Heart	Patients suffering from cardiomyopathy, coronary artery disease, congenital heart defects or other life-threatening heart diseases.
Lungs	Patients with emphysema, cystic fibrosis, toxic exposure or other lung diseases.
Liver	Patients diagnosed with hepatitis C, cirrhosis, primary sclerosing cholangitis, Alpha-1 or other liver diseases.
Pancreas	Insulin dependent diabetic patients (a transplant eliminates the need for insulin injections and reduces the risk of renal failure, losing sight and limbs).
Kidney	Patients suffering from severe kidney failure caused by high blood pressure or polycystic kidney disease (a transplant can eliminate dialysis).
Intestine	Patient's suffering from Crohn's disease, genetic intestinal problems or other intestinal diseases.
Eyes/ Corneas	Sight can be restored for patients with corneal blindness caused by disease or injury.
Skin	Patients with severe burns (skin grafts decrease pain, infection, scarring and dehydration).
Bone	Patients requiring facial reconstruction, cancer treatment, correction of birth defects, spinal surgery or oral surgery.
Heart Valves	Patients requiring replacement of a malfunctioning heart valve (in most cases, donor valves are preferred over mechanical valves).
Tendons/ Ligaments	Patients requiring reconstructive surgery (common for sports injuries).
Veins	Patients requiring coronary artery by-pass surgery (the donated veins are used to replace the patient's blocked arteries).



Important Donor Facts!

• A patient must be **brain dead** for organ donation to occur. Many times brain death is caused by a severe head injury. Brain death is an irreversible, catastrophic injury which causes all brain activity to stop. Physicians can test to determine if a patient has any brain activity. Brain death is very different from coma.

Brain Death

- **ALL** brain tissue is **DEAD**
- **NO** blood flow to the brain
 - **NO** electrical activity in the brain
- **NO CHANCE** of recovery
- A candidate for **ORGAN DONATION**
- A candidate for **TISSUE DONATION**

Coma

- A **PORTION** of the brain is **INJURED**
- Brain receiving some blood flow
- Brain has some electrical activity
- Recovery **MAY** be possible
- **NOT** a candidate for **ORGAN DONATION**
- A candidate for **TISSUE DONATION**

Organ vs. Tissue

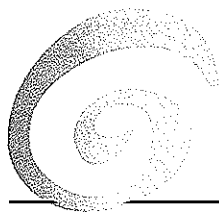
What's the big difference?

A potential organ donor

- Has sustained an injury that makes it impossible to breath without the help of a ventilator (breathing machine). While doctors assess the patient's injuries, the ventilator supplies oxygen and keeps the heart beating.
- Has an irreversible brain injury, no brain function
- Must be pronounced brain dead by physician
- If the family consents to donation, organs are recovered in the operating room while the ventilator supplies oxygen to the organs.
- Organs: heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, pancreas, intestine

A potential tissue donor

- Has experienced cardiac death (no heart beat). Almost any type of death offers the possibility of tissue donation.
- Tissues can be donated up to 24 hours after cardiac death has occurred.
- Tissues: eyes/corneas, heart valves, tendons/ligaments, skin, bone, veins



Setting Things Straight!



Facts about organ and tissue donation

Myth

If I sign a donor card or the back of my driver's license, attempts will not be made to save my life if I am in an accident.

Fact!

The possibility of donation never affects the quality of medical care. In a medical emergency, every attempt is made to save the patient. A signed donor card makes no difference in the care received.

The patient is NEVER considered a potential donor until AFTER death has occurred. Doctors do everything possible to save life. If their efforts fail, then the organ & tissue recovery agency is called in to offer the family the option of donation.

In addition, hospitals are required to call organ and tissue recovery agencies each time a death occurs, regardless of the presence of a signed donor card.

Ⓢ Myth

If I donate organs and tissues, it will change my appearance and affect funeral plans.

Fact!

Donation does not disfigure the body or affect funeral plans. The recovery of organs and tissues is conducted by qualified surgeons and medical professionals. An open casket funeral is still possible since donation does not change the donor's physical appearance.

Ⓢ Myth

My family will be charged for the costs involved with organ/tissue donation.

Fact!

The donor's family does not pay ANY donation expenses. These costs are paid by the organizations that recover the organs and tissues. Also, donor families do not receive compensation for donation.

Ⓞ Myth

There are religious objections to organ and tissue donation.

Fact!

All major religions support the principles and practices of organ and tissue donation and consider it a generous act that is the individual's choice.

Transplantation supports life-preserving principles of these faiths.

Ⓞ Myth

If I decide to become a donor, my signed driver's license or donor card is all that's necessary.

Fact!

Signing a driver's license or donor card is important. However, the MOST IMPORTANT STEP in becoming a donor is to discuss your wishes with your family. Regardless of your age and regardless of any signed documentation supporting donation, the donor's family will be asked at the time of death to give permission for donation to occur.



Questions & Answers

Q: Who can donate?

A: Anyone, at any age, can express their wishes to family members. Sign a donor card or your driver's license but make sure you tell your family.

In Mississippi, your legal-next-of-kin must give permission for donation to occur, regardless of age.

Q: Can you donate while you are still alive?

A: Blood and bone marrow donations are always given by living donors.

Often, living donors give a loved one or family member a kidney. You can live a normal, healthy life with one functioning kidney.

In some situations, transplants occur by using just a portion of a living donor's liver or lung.

However, if more people donated organs at the time of death fewer living related donations would be needed.

Q: Can I choose what organs are donated?

A: The donor should indicate this decision prior to death on a donor card or driver's license. Also, donor families can specify that only certain organs and/or tissues be donated.

Q: Is it permissible to sell human organs?

A: No. There is a federal law that prohibits the selling of human organs.

Q: Can the donor family and the transplant recipients ever communicate with each other?

A: Transplant recipients often want information about their donor. Also, many donor families want information about the people who received their loved one's gift of life. Initially, the identity of the donor and the recipients of the organs is kept confidential to protect privacy.

However, general information is given to both parties and letters can be exchanged. If both parties waive the right to privacy, names and contact information can be exchanged.

Q: How are the organs distributed?

A: A national organ sharing system distributes the recovered organs according to medical criteria such as blood type, body size, genetic makeup and medical urgency.

Q: How do families really feel about donation?

A: Many families say they were too overcome by grief to think seriously about donation when their loved one passed away. Some say they would have donated if they could make the decision again.

Family members who have consented to donation say they are comforted by knowing that something positive resulted from their loss.

Q: What does this have to do with me?

A: Donation is a decision you should think about and research for yourself. You can ask family members what their wishes are and share your decision with them. Talk about it now, so that this important decision is not made in a time of distress.