

# Senior Moments

**Voelz, Reed, & Mount, LLC**  
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Newsletter  
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## CONSIDERING ORGAN DONATION?

Have you thought about donating your organs after your death? When considering organ donation, there are a few things to keep in mind.

Donating all of your body parts could include the donation of your skin and bones, which could make it difficult for funeral homes to properly prepare your body for an open casket visitation. Donating only internal organs allows the body to be in better shape to be prepared for a viewing.

Donating all of your useful body parts and organs is a great choice if you prefer to be cremated or to have a closed casket. Many of your organs can be donated, regardless of your age. According to Donate Life Indiana, people of all ages are in need of organ transplants, so you are never too old to be a donor. Transplant technicians determine the suitability of your organs after your death, so you should never assume that none of your organs would be of use due to your age or physical condition.

## HOW DO I REGISTER?

You can register as an organ donor when you renew your driver's license by visiting your local Bureau of Motor Vehicles. The Bureau of Motor Vehicles will print a red heart on your license so that others will know you have made the decision to be an organ donor. You can also register online at [ww.donatelifeindiana.org](http://ww.donatelifeindiana.org), the only Indiana online registry for organ donation.

Our website has free planning forms, articles, and information about our law firm.

[www.voelzlaw.com](http://www.voelzlaw.com)



## Voelz, Reed, & Mount, LLC

We are committed to serving our clients in all aspects of estate and disability planning, estate and trust settlement, elder law, and Medicaid qualification.

**Our office hours are  
8:30-5:00**

**Monday  
through Friday**

**812-372-1303**

**Our mission is to  
provide the highest  
quality legal  
services  
in a timely,  
professional,  
caring, and ethical  
manner.**

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## **WHO CAN AUTHORIZE ORGAN DONATION?**

Your appointed health care representative has priority in authorizing organ donation after your death. You should appoint a health care representative who would follow your wishes regarding organ donation after your death. You should discuss your wishes regarding organ donation with your appointed health care representative and consider leaving him or her written advice about your wishes.

Making the decision to donate your organs can be a rewarding one. You can feel good in knowing that after you are gone, you have given someone else the gift of life or the gift of a better life.

## **TOTAL DONATION OF THE BODY TO SCIENCE**

Indiana University School of Medicine offers a direct donor program for willing donors. Donors can complete a Certificate of Bequeathal and return it to Indiana University School of Medicine during lifetime or donation can be authorized by the appointed health care representative after death. All costs related to donation of the body to science are paid by the receiving entity and not the donor's family.

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## **WHY TALK TO AN ELDER LAW ATTORNEY?**

It is important to consult with an elder law attorney at the onset of any condition, disease, or illness that could lead to nursing home care, or if in home health care services may be needed.

An experienced elder law attorney can:

- Advise you about Medicaid and/or Veteran's benefits,
- Prepare an appropriate Financial Power of Attorney and health care documents,
- Possibly develop and help implement an asset protection plan,
- Advise you about how and where to get the best care,
- File the Medicaid application or VA benefits application,
- Help obtain and assemble the extensive documentation that is required for the application,
- Represent and be an advocate for the applicant during all aspects of the application process,
- Make sure that the correct approval is received, and if not, appeal the decision,
- Give advice about post-eligibility matters so that benefits eligibility continues.