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Can I Donate My Blood or Organs if I've Had Cancer?

Many cancer survivors want to help other people by becoming blood or organ donors. It's possible for many people who've had cancer to donate, but it varies by cancer type and medical condition.

The best way to find out if you are allowed to donate is to call your local blood donation center. Donation centers may have different rules or waiting periods.

Some cancer survivors who want to donate blood may worry that they might give cancer to the person who is given their blood. There have been **no** reports of cancer spreading to another person through a blood transfusion.

Here are some resources with more information on blood donation:

- Age

Even if someone is not allowed to donate organs, they may still be able to donate other tissues such as skin or corneas.

If the organs from a deceased person might be acceptable, a health care professional or donation specialist will always speak with the person's family or next of kin first. If you haven't signed up as an organ donor, your next of kin must give permission before any tissues or organs can be donated. Talk to your family about what you want to happen to your organs.

Here are some resources with more information on organ and tissue donation:

- [UNOS \(United Network for Organ Sharing\)](#)⁸
- [Donate Life America](#)⁹
- [Gift of Life Donor Program](#)¹⁰
- [Human Resources & Services Administration \(HRSA\)](#)¹¹
- [Eye Bank Association of America](#)¹²

Hyperlinks

1. www.cancer.org/cancer/types/kaposi-sarcoma.html

10. www.donors1.org/
11. www.organdonor.gov/
12. restoresight.org/

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