



THE LIVING BANK
 P.O. Box 6725, Houston, TX 77265 – 1-800-528-2971



www.livingbank.org

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LIVING DONOR REGISTRATION FORM

Of the 103,000 people on the nation waiting list for an organ, 81,000 need a kidney. In about 30% of kidney transplants, Living Donors give the gift of life to individuals who are experiencing kidney failure. Family members are donors in 80% of living donor kidney transplants. When a family member is not a match, a kidney exchange with another donor who is a match may be arranged, or an altruistic donor (unrelated to recipient) may step forward. The Living Bank is seeking to develop a pool of potential living donors to facilitate kidney exchanges between families and between an altruistic donor and an individual who needs a kidney.

Currently, the National Organ Waiting List exceeds 103,000

81,000+ need a kidney

- I want to donate a kidney to a family member, but we do not match.
- I want to donate a kidney to save a life.
- I'm interested in more information about living donation of other organs (parts of liver or pancreas).

Name: _____

Address _____ E-Mail _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Donor's Signature: _____ Date Signed: _____

Print Name Here:

Witness: _____

Print Name Here:

Witness: _____

Print Name Here:

Thank you for considering a decision to become a living donor. Please share this information with your family and return this page to: The Living Bank, P.O. Box 6725, Houston, TX 77265.

Upon receipt your information will be entered in our database, and you will be contacted to begin the process of education and counseling to prepare you as a living donor. Should you change your mind, contact us, and we will delete your information from our records.

To find out how you can assist this program in your community, call 800-528-2971

Q&A Living Donation

What is living donation?

Living donation occurs when a living person agrees to donate an organ – or part of an organ – for transplantation to save a life. Living donors are often a) family members (living related donation); b) someone who is emotionally related to the recipient such as a good friend or in-law (living unrelated donor); or (c) a stranger (a nondirected donation – also called an altruistic donation).

What role does The Living Bank (TLB) play in living donation? TLB encourages potential living donors to come forward and sign a donor card. TLB then provides free counseling to the donor and recipient and coordinates with transplant centers and the United Network of Organ Sharing's (UNOS) waiting list to locate a suitable recipient. Potential living donors attend a workshop and follow-up counseling to ensure they are fully informed and educated before making a decision to donate.

What happens after I sign the donor card as a living donor?

TLB will contact you to arrange an intake and schedule your first workshop and additional counseling sessions with our coordinator/counselor. If you wish to follow through with the donation, the coordinator/counselor will contact an area transplant program to arrange testing for blood and tissue matching and to locate a recipient, if yours is an altruistic donation.

How can I be a living donor?

You must be in good health and have normal kidney function and anatomy. The donor and recipient must have compatible blood types. A physical exam and additional testing will be required to check for cross matching and tissue type. Living donors also will be asked to participate in a psychological examination and counseling to ensure that the decision is voluntary and free from pressure. Your donation will impact all members of the donor's family and should not be undertaken lightly.

What organs can a living donor give?

Kidneys are the most needed organs. A person can function well on just one of their two kidneys. Parts of other organs that can be used from living donors are the lung, liver and pancreas.

What are the advantages of living donation over non-living donation?

Transplants from living donors (as opposed to non-living donors) have several advantages: 1) A majority of living donor transplants are done between family members who are genetically similar; this reduces rejection possibilities. 2) A kidney from a living donor functions immediately. Some kidneys from non-living donors may require the patient to be on dialysis until the new kidney begins to function. 3) The transplant can take place at a convenient time for donor and recipient.

What about expenses?

The Living Bank and other organizations may underwrite some of the travel and accommodation expenses. ***Donors are never financially compensated.*** Under federal law, it is illegal to receive money or gifts in exchange for organ donation. Donors are responsible for travel expenses and time lost from work. Many employers will allow an employee to take paid leave. The federal law, the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) will provide unpaid leave. The cost of the living donor's evaluation, testing and surgery are generally paid for by the recipient's Medicare or private health insurance. Some follow-up expenses may not be covered, so it is important to discuss these issues with your counselor and the transplant center.

How is the surgery done?

Surgery is either open surgery or laparoscopic. The transplant team will decide which will work in your case. A general anesthetic is administered. After surgery, the donor's remaining kidney should immediately take over the work of two kidneys.

What are the risks?

All major surgeries involve some level of risk. The majority of complications from living donation are minor such as temporary pain. Information regarding risk of donation and surgery will be part of the counseling process prior to surgery, so the donor will be fully informed.

Where can I find additional information or reading material?

1. The National Kidney Foundation Web site at: <http://www.kidney.org/transplantation/livingDonor/infoQA.cfm?id=6>.
2. The United Network of Organ Sharing at: <http://www.unos.org>
3. Additional information about donation and transplantation at: <http://www.transplantliving.org/livingdonation>