



Make your decision known

New organ donor registry to nullify old

April 28, 2009

In the near future, Donate Life Illinois will phase out its old "intent" organ and tissue donor registry, to focus solely on the first-person consent registry. When the registry is eventually phased out, people on that list who have not committed to the new list will not be recognized as organ donors.

Illinois' first-person consent organ and tissue donor registry empowers people to become an organ and tissue donor at the end of life. As opposed to the previous intent registry, the first-person consent registry ensures that your wishes to be an organ donor will be honored. Family members may not override a decision.

As the national organ transplant waiting list surpasses 100,000, many Illinois residents celebrated National Donate Life Month this April by joining the Illinois organ and tissue donor registry.

When Illinois introduced a new first-person consent donor registry in 2006, there were 6 million Illinoisans in the old registry. As of today, 4.3 million Illinoisans are registered in the new registry, which means that more than 60 percent of Illinoisans still need to be reached to register their decision to be organ and tissue donors. According to a 2006 statewide poll, 87 percent of Illinois adults believe that registering to be an organ donor is the right thing to do.

Donate Life Illinois, the coalition of agencies responsible for organ, tissue, eye, blood and marrow donation in Illinois, is working hard to increase the number of donors in the first-person consent registry to 6 million. When it does, the old registry will become void.

One registered donor can save and enhance up to 25 lives.

People can register online at www.DonateLifeIllinois.org, visit any Illinois state driver's license facility, or call the Illinois Secretary of State Organ/Tissue Donor Program at (800) 210-2106.