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First-Person Consent FACT SHEET

In January 2006, Illinois' First-Person Consent Law went into effect, making a person's wish to be an organ/tissue donor legally binding. Additional witnesses or family consent is not required for donation to occur. If a person was signed up as a donor before January 2006, he/she must re-register on the First-Person Consent Registry to ensure that his/her decision to be an organ/tissue donor is honored.

In Illinois, persons under age 18 cannot legally enter into a contract; therefore, family consent is still required before donation can occur. Because persons under age 18 are *not* eligible to join the registry, they should discuss their wishes to be an organ/tissue donor with their families. When a person turns 18, he/she may join the registry.

- There are more than 113,000 people on the national transplant waiting list.
- In Illinois, nearly 5,000 people are waiting for a life-saving donor.
- When a person agrees to have his/her name included in the donor registry, the information will be available to organ procurement agencies and tissue banks when needed.
- Consent may be withdrawn from the registry at anytime by notifying the Secretary of State's office.

For more information or to request organ/tissue donation materials, please call the Secretary of State's Organ/Tissue Donor Program at 800-210-2106.

Four easy ways to join the registry:

1. Visit LifeGoesOn.com.
2. Call the Secretary of State Organ/Tissue Donor Program at 800-210-2106.
3. Send a request or card.
4. Visit any Driver Services facility.

Illinois procurement agencies provide support for donor families under Illinois' First-Person Consent Law by:

- Accessing the registry to determine whether a person has declared intent to donate.
- Explaining the donation process to a donor's family, answering questions and providing additional support.
- Asking for the donor's medical/social history to help determine which organs/tissues may be transplanted.
- Asking family members whether they wish to receive follow-up information, such as general information about transplant recipients.
- Continuing to provide programs and services for donor families.

Jesse White • Secretary of State