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What is an organ donation? How do I make an organ donation?



In Illinois, any individual who is of sound mind and who has attained the age of 18 may give all or any part of his or her body (“donor”) to a physician, hospital, medical school, dental school, chiropractic school, mortuary school, bank or storage facility for medical or dental research, education, therapy or transplantation, to a federally designated organ procurement agency or tissue bank for medical or dental research, education, therapy or transplantation, or to a specified individual. A gift of all or part of a person’s body may be made by will or by a written, signed document other than a will. A written, signed document other than a will may be part of the donor’s driver’s license or it may be a separate card or form completed by the donor. The statutory Illinois Power of Attorney for Health Care also allows a person to indicate whether or not he or she would like to be an organ donor. The donor may also make an effective gift of all or any part of his or her organs or tissues by consenting to have his or her name included in the First-Person Consent Organ/Tissue Donor Registry maintained by the Illinois Secretary of State. The web site for the Illinois Secretary of State’s organ/tissue donor registry is www.LifeGoesOn.com. If a person does not make such a gift of all or part of his or her body, then certain specified persons, including an agent under a Power of Attorney for Health Care, may consent to organ donation.

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