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First-Person Consent FACT SHEET

Currently, the Illinois Organ/Tissue Donor Registry maintained by the Secretary of State's office documents a person's wishes regarding organ/tissue donation but does not constitute legal consent to be an organ donor. Legislation that becomes effective January 1, 2006, creates the new First-Person Consent Organ/Tissue Donor Registry, which will make a person's decision to be an organ/tissue donor legally binding. Additional witnesses or family consent will no longer be required for donation to occur.

However, in Illinois, persons under age 18 cannot legally enter into a contract; therefore, family consent is still required before donation can occur. Because those under age 18 *will not* be eligible to join the registry, please encourage your students to discuss their wishes about organ/tissue donation with their families. When a person turns 18, he/she may join the First-Person Consent Registry.

- The new law is expected to save more than 100 more lives annually. Currently, one in five people who agree to be organ donors have their wishes overruled by family members.
- When a person agrees to have his or her name included in the new registry, the information will be available to organ procurement agencies and tissue banks when needed.
- The current registry will be maintained until the new registry is established. As individuals have their names added to the new registry, their names will be removed from the current registry.
- Consent may be withdrawn from the registry at any time by notifying the Secretary of State's office.
- Illinois currently has the largest donor registry in the nation with more than 6 million names.
- The Secretary of State's office offers presentations on the First-Person Consent Law and organ/tissue donation. For more information or to schedule a presentation, please call 800-210-2106.

Four easy ways to join the new registry:

1. Visit www.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 will continue to provide support for donor families under the new First-Person Consent Law by:

- Accessing the registry to determine whether a person declared intent to donate.
- Explaining the donation process to the 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 organ/tissue transplant recipients.
- Continuing to provide programs and services for donor families.

Jesse White • Secretary of State