

**To the Potential Living Kidney Donor:**

**This letter was prepared for you by your *Independent Living Donor Advocates*.**

All transplant centers in the United States provide potential living donors with an *Independent Living Donor Advocate* (ILDA). The ILDA is responsible for ensuring that your rights as a potential kidney donor are represented. We work with you to promote what is in your best interest throughout the donation process.

Your ILDA is separate from the transplant team. We are not involved in the evaluation or care of your intended recipient. Our focus is only on living donors.

We are available to help you understand the information you receive from the transplant team about your living donor evaluation, surgery, recovery, and follow-up care. Our goal is to support you in making the best decision for yourself about kidney donation.

Your ILDA can:

- find answers to questions you have about living donation
- facilitate communication with your transplant team
- assist you in advocating for yourself

We will work with you throughout the living donation process. If you decide to undergo surgery, we visit you while you are in the hospital, and follow up with telephone calls after you go home.

**Donating a kidney is a voluntary decision. You can stop your donor evaluation at any time.**

If you change your mind, or wish to delay your decision, we are available to discuss this with you and support your choice. If you are uncomfortable telling the recipient you do not wish to donate, the transplant team will say you are not an appropriate donor candidate and will not share your decision.

Discussions with your ILDA are documented in your medical record, which is confidential and protected by federal privacy laws. However, in healthcare, there are exceptions when confidentiality must be broken, such as when there are concerns for your safety or the safety of others.

**As your advocate, we will help you get the information you need to make this important decision. Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns. We are available to speak with you throughout all phases of the living donation process.**

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