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SENIOR ADVOCATE**



Altruistic Living Donor Registry First in Country

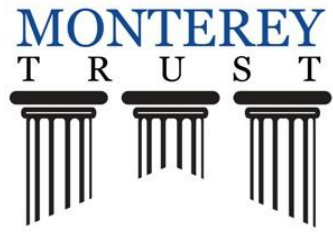
In 2009 Steve Jobs received a donated liver that saved his life. Another 17,000 people are waiting for kidney donations and for many time will run out before a donor is found. Mr. Jobs is a talented innovator and, let's face it, anyone that gives us the iPad is one great guy. We now have an additional reason to love this man. Jobs pushed former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to sponsor The Altruistic Living Donor Registry Act that will allow Californians to register as living kidney donors. Presently, when you renew your driver's license at the Department of Motor Vehicles, you are given the option to register as an (on death) organ donor. If you agree, your license is affixed with a pink "donor" dot. After July 1, 2011, in addition to being asked if you are willing to donate organs at death, you will be asked to consider registration as a living kidney donor. California is the first state in the country to establish a living donor registry.

Medical Advance Health Care Directives can provide permission for organ donation and should be expanded to provide living donor provisions.

Donating an organ during life or at death is a generous, noble act and this new registry is an innovative way to save even more lives. Prior to this law, if a stranger wanted to contribute an organ to another simply out of altruism, it was scrutinized and innately suspect. In 2006, Matt Thompson of San Jose, California, wanted to give a kidney to Sonny Davis, someone who was unknown to Thompson. Davis's wife had sent letters to friends and relatives asking them to help and one of the recipients passed the letter on to Thompson. Kaiser Permanente of Northern California initially refused to do the surgery because Thompson was not a family member or a good friend of Davis. Doctors were concerned that money was being secretly exchanged to compensate Thompson.

Paying donors for organs is a hotly debated topic. Some believe that compensation for organs is an affront to human dignity and leads to increased inequality. Fortunately, in the Thompson/Davis case, the kidney donation was eventually allowed and Davis was given the gift of life.

Assemblyman Richard Brodsky, D-New York, is taking a novel approach to the organ donation shortage. He has proposed that an "opt out" law be instated which will require people to indicate in official documents — their driver's license, most likely — that they specifically do not



want to donate organs. Under the proposed law, if the box is not checked, it would be presumed that the person will donate any and all viable organs. Given that over 20,000 transplantable organs are buried or cremated every year, this “presumed consent” law coupled with California’s Donor Registry could very effectively decrease the number of those on the Waiting List

As for Steve Jobs, bless him. I’m looking forward to the newest iPad – but instead of paying an arm and a leg – how about a kidney?

Liza Horvath has over 25 years experience in the estate planning and trust fields and is a Trust Officer with a local bank. The above should not be considered legal or medical advice.

If you have a question please call (831) 915-0272 or email liza@montereytrust.com.