



Potential Living Donor Database Frequently Asked Questions

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1. What is the Potential Living Donor Database?

The Potential Living Donor Database is a pilot program, which connects those interested in living donation with profiles of potential kidney recipients searching for a donor. It aims to help and support those interested in living donation navigate the first steps of the complex, nationwide organ transplant system.

2. How is this program different from others like it?

The Potential Living Donor Database is unique in four ways.

First, unlike other online matching programs, it is completely free for potential living donors and potential recipients.

Second, this program matches potential living donors with a trained Mentor through our 1+1=LIFE Mentorship program to provide one on one support from a peer who has gone through the process before.

Third, it is nationwide. There are other local programs, but this Database is the first of its kind to provide this free service across the country.

Fourth, it does not provide the means of communication between potential donors and recipients. In order to protect the rights and confidentiality of both sides and remove any direct communication, we act as the liaison between interested parties and direct potential living donors to recipients' transplant centers. This removes pressure on the potential donor, allowing them to stop the process at any time and protects the recipient from false hopes if a potential donor is not a match or decides not to donate before testing is complete.

3. Why should I go through the Database instead of going directly to a transplant center?

Our Database provides one on one support to potential donors and profiles of those looking for a kidney if you'd like to know who you donate to. If you would like to donate altruistically, i.e. without knowing who the recipient is, we will direct you to the public list of transplant centers in your area for testing.

4. What does it cost?

It is completely free for those signing up for the Database and for those in need of a kidney. We are grateful to our sponsors and donors for making this program available to anyone in the United States.

5. What happens if I sign up for the Database?

We will send you information about living donation, provide a link to profiles of those in need of a kidney, and match you with a trained Mentor who has gone through the process before to give you one on one support and answer your questions. If you decide to get tested for one of our potential kidney recipients, we will connect you with their transplant center for testing and help support you the whole way if you'd like. If you decide to donate to a stranger, we will give you resources to find a transplant center near you.

6. Are there different types of living donation- what are my options?

There are three main types of donation: directed, non-directed, and chain donation. If you sign up for the Database, we can discuss these options with you.

Directed donations are to a specific person, whether it's someone you know or a stranger.

Non-directed donations are to a stranger and you may never know whose life you saved.

Donor chains begin with a donor giving a kidney to a stranger who has a willing donor, but isn't a match, who donates to another person to create a chain reaction. Starting a chain can help save 2 to 30 lives on average, but you may never know whose life you saved.

7. Do you give my information to potential kidney recipients or share it with anyone?

No. The American Transplant Foundation only provides the most basic contact information to your matched, trained Mentor to contact you and does not share your information with anyone outside of the organization without your permission. We also do not share any personal contact information of potential living donors or recipients with each other to protect the rights and confidentiality of both sides.

8. What obligation am I under if I sign up for the Database?

You are under no obligation to become a living donor when signing up for the Potential Living Donor Database. The Database is meant to be a resource for those looking for help and support navigating the transplant system and find the stories of those in need of a kidney.

9. If I sign up for the Database will I be matched directly with someone in need of a kidney?

Our Database does not directly match potential donors with potential recipients. We provide the stories of those in need of a kidney for potential donors to read through and decide if they would like to get tested for that particular person.

10. If I sign up for the Database am I guaranteed to be matched with someone?

We cannot guarantee you will be able to donate or that you will be a match for one of our Mentees. Potential donors will need to undergo medical testing for living donation and only the medical team at the transplant center or hospital can determine if you are a match or able to donate to others.

11. How do I know that the Mentee profiles you provide are real?

All of our “In Need of a Kidney” profiles are created by our Mentees. We work with them directly and they are matched with one of our trained Mentors. However, we are not responsible for the information on their profiles and cannot guarantee their validity. We simply connect you to the transplant center that they are listed with.

12. Can potential liver donors sign up for the Database?

At this time, the Potential Living Donor Database is only for potential kidney donors. If you are only interested in liver donation, please contact your local transplant center to determine if they conduct living liver donations to strangers. You can search for local centers [here](#).