



New York Donate Life Registry

In 1999, the New York Life Pass It On Registry was established to record an individual's intention to be an organ and tissue donor. As an "intent" registry, permission from the individual's next of kin was required for donation to proceed in the event of the prospective donor's death. To allow an individual to direct donation and remove the need to obtain permission of the next of kin, the New York Donate Life Registry was established in 2006 as a registry that records an individual's own legal consent to organ, tissue and eye donation upon their death. The prospective donor's next of kin's permission is not required. By enrolling in the Donate Life Registry, a person, who must be at least eighteen years old, is giving legal consent for the recovery of his or her organs, tissues, and eyes for the purposes of transplantation and research at the time of his or her death. If an individual enrolls in this new registry and dies, the individual's family will be informed of the individual's decision and given information regarding the donation process, but the family's permission is not required to proceed with donation.

Registry information is kept strictly confidential and can only be accessed by: (a) the New York State Department of Health employees when required for the performance of their official duties, (b) Federally regulated organ procurement organizations, (c) New York State licensed tissue and eye banks, and (d) other entities formally approved by the New York State Department of Health. Such access is limited to the purpose of identifying potential organ and tissue donors at or near the time of death.

Please note that if an individual is enrolled in the Life Pass It On intent registry, that individual's enrollment is not automatically included in the Donate Life consent registry. To ensure that an individual's decision to be an organ, tissue and eye donor is honored, that person must enroll in the Donate Life Registry. Information on enrollment in the Donate Life Registry can be found at www.donatelifeny.org.

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If you have any questions, please contact Doris L. Martin at (516) 393-2205 or at dmartin@gwtlaw.com or the GWT attorney with whom you regularly consult.

About Garfunkel, Wild & Travis, P.C.

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