



ASTS Statement on Recent Living Kidney Donor Death

All donor deaths are tragic and unexpected, and ASTS supports the families of those involved. Our deepest sympathies go out to all who have experienced loss of a loved one who selflessly gave part of themselves to help another. ASTS also supports the transplant teams involved in these painful cases. The transplant centers and teams performing living donation are dedicated caregivers in stressful circumstances.

More than 6,000 living organ donations are performed in the United States each year, and many more throughout the world. Each living donor undergoes a major surgical procedure with significant inherent risks in order to save another person's life. Despite all attempts to minimize donor risk, serious complications including death are always possible in living donor surgery and do occur, even when performed by skilled surgeons in very experienced transplant centers.

Because the number of organs available from deceased donors falls far short of the number of organs needed, live donor procedures will always fill a very important need and continue to be performed. ASTS recognizes the risks of donation and encourages educational efforts for all potential living donors about potential complications as well as research into reducing those risks. We are committed to fully informing prospective donors and to supporting the highest level of ethical consideration in living donor evaluation and follow-up. ASTS and the entire transplant community will continue to strive to increase donor safety for all who choose to help provide a life-saving treatment for those who suffer from end stage organ failure.

ASTS does not comment on specific cases.

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