



SUMMARY OF LIVING DONOR PROTECTIONS



HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF UTAH



GIFTWORKS



Introduction

Many people do not know that medical expenses associated with living donor evaluation and donation are fully covered by the recipient's health insurance. Despite this, there may be other costs associated with donating a kidney that you should prepare for. The good news is that there are many organizations and resources available to you to offset these costs. Having knowledge of, and using these resources, can ensure that you do not pay any money out of pocket when you donate a kidney.

Below is a list of expenses that are not covered by the recipient's insurance:

- Lost wage reimbursement
- Dependent care reimbursement
- Transportation, lodging, and meals for the donor and a support person on evaluation, donation surgery, and follow-up trips to the transplant center for up to 2 years after the donation surgery.

RESOURCES THAT CAN OFFSET THE COSTS OF LIVING DONATION

Support from the Kidney Recipient

While it is illegal to pay somebody to donate a kidney, it is legal to reimburse a donor for expenses related to donation that are not covered by the recipient's insurance. If your intended recipient knows that you are stepping forward to donate, it is acceptable to seek their assistance to help cover expenses related to your testing and donation.



National Living Donor Assistance Center (NLDAC) | www.livingdonorassistance.org

The National Living Donor Assistance Center (NLDAC) is a federally funded program that helps eligible living organ donors with their travel, lost wages, and dependent care expenses.

Individuals considering becoming a living organ donor can apply for help with their travel expenses, lost wages, and dependent care expenses from NLDAC if they cannot be reimbursed for these costs by their recipient, a state program, or an insurance company. The transplant recipient will be required to submit information about their financial status for NLDAC to determine if the donor is eligible. Eligibility is determined by the transplant recipient's household income.

FOR ASSISTANCE APPLYING FOR NLDAC SUPPORT, YOU CAN CONTACT

Robin Cady | robin.cady@hsc.utah.edu | 801-585-2054

Assistance from the National Kidney Registry (NKR) & Alliance for Paired Kidney Donation (APKD)

In the event you are not a match for your intended recipient, or you do not have an intended recipient, you will have the opportunity to be part of a paired exchange. When you participate in an exchange program, you will have several additional benefits and protections available to you.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

- Lost wage reimbursement for up to 4 weeks
- Travel, lodging, food & mileage reimbursement for donors and their support person

If you are participating in a paired exchange, and would like to better understand the protections available to you through these exchange programs, please contact:

Laurie Lee | laurie@yourgiftworks.com | 312.927.7655



Tax Exemptions

Depending on the state you live in, there may be some tax benefits available to you when you donate a kidney. State laws that impact kidney donation can be found here. For questions or support, please contact Robin Cady.

(robin.cady@hsc.utah.edu | 801-585-2054)

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- [American Society of Transplantation Resources](#)
- [National Kidney Foundation Resources](#)
- [Living Kidney Donors Network](#)
- [American Living Donor Fund](#)
- [Living Donor Financial Toolkit](#)



University of Utah Health's kidney transplant program has been caring for patients with end-stage renal disease since 1965. In 1977, the program became a Medicare-approved center. Since that time, we have continued to do a high number of adult and pediatric kidney transplants with survival rates higher than the national average.

We know that patients have unique needs. We provide different types of kidney transplantation to best serve patients and their families. Our kidney transplant program takes a multidisciplinary approach, providing patients access to a team of health care professionals who are experienced in all medical and surgical aspects of transplantation, including board-certified adult and pediatric transplant nephrologists.



The Giftworks program has three pillars designed to serve both the kidney recipient and anyone who steps forward to be tested as a living donor. We believe that just as recipients deserve education and support, so too do the generous people that step forward as living donors. Our goal is to make sure that both the recipient and the donor feel equally supported, empowered, and part of an amazing exchange that is both lifesaving and beautiful.



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healthcare.utah.edu/transplant/kidney/