

Mayo Clinic Minute

The importance of deciding to be an organ donor while you're still alive

Video	Audio
	More than 114,000 people are waiting on an organ transplant at any given time in the U.S., and at least 80% of those are waiting for a kidney.
[01] 00:00:45 DR. CHARLES ROSEN:	"For kidneys, it largely defaults to waiting time. But for livers, hearts and lungs, it's largely based on the degree of illness and how sick someone is, and that defines their priority on the waiting list."
	Dr. Charles Rosen, director of the Transplant Center at Mayo Clinic, says living donors can help save people waiting for a kidney or a liver, but those waiting for other organs, unfortunately, have to wait for a deceased donor.
	Dr. Rosen says if you're interested in saving another person's life with your organs after you die, it's important to sign up as a donor now while you're still alive to save your family from having to make a difficult decision at a difficult time.
[02] 00:02:40 Charles Rosen, M.D. Director, Transplant Center Mayo Clinic	"We've heard from donor families or potential donor families that decided not to donate because it was such a stressful time in their lives that then three, six months later they felt some remorse for not doing that."
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Ian Roth.