



The Gift of Life

Reported by: *WMBD/WYZZ-Staff*

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WMBD/WYZZ - NORMAL -- Nearly 100,000 people are waiting for an organ transplant. Every day, 18 people on that list die while waiting. Even if you're already a donor, a new Illinois law might require you to re-register.

Annika was born with a liver disease, when bile from the liver is unable to drain. Almost all babies diagnosed with this rare disease die within the 1st year of life.

Annika's mother, Moreena Tiede, says "she was given only a week to live in the ICU."

By the age of three, Annika had undergone two liver transplants-now 4 years later she spends most of her time playing with friends and dreaming about what she wants to be when she grows up.

Annika says, "Maybe a principal"

Annika's mom joined secretary of state Jesse White at Illinois State University Friday to help spread the word about a new law which affects all Illinois organ donors.

The law was changed in 2006 to 1st person consent, which means donors will not need family permission. The change requires current donors to re-register.

Secretary of State Jesse White is "asking that when you're alive and well, give blood and when you're no longer here give organs and when you've done those two things you will have made a positive impact on society."

Because of two organ transplants, Annika's stable now, but she's still waiting for another liver for her final transplant.

Moreena says, "We are so grateful to the donor family who did decide to donate and save our little girl's life."

One organ donor can save over 50 lives. The website to register to become a donor is www.lifegoeson.org .

