

Organ Donation Exercise

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Instructions

You are a voting member of a medical ethics committee of a City owned hospital. The committee is responsible for investigating, deliberating, and making decisions pertaining to medical ethics for the hospital. You are presented with a case requiring selection of a person to receive a donated liver. Each potential recipient is a match for the single liver that is available. Each potential recipient is near death, and most likely will die if not selected or if other livers are not located within 24 hours. First, you are to individually decide who you believe should get the liver, then, deliberate with the other committee members to reach a committee decision that can be acted upon by the medical staff. You are to take this exercise seriously, and attempt to influence the other members of the committee to follow what you believe is “the right thing to do.” Act and vote as you would in real life.

The potential recipient candidates are:

- 72 year old Catholic priest who has served God in remote third world countries and who recently retired.
- 26 year old HIV/AIDs patient who has a record of drug abuse.
- 26 year old mother of two young children who are in the custody of the Department of Social Services resulting from the mother’s neglect due to alcohol abuse.
- 38 year old lawyer who represented your ex-spouse in a nasty divorce three years ago. You intensely dislike this lawyer.
- A 38 year old male, gay teacher, who is suffering from an automobile injury that damaged his liver.
- 56 year old convicted child abuser.
- The 38 year old daughter of the hospital’s chief heart surgeon who is responsible for the bulk of the hospital surgery revenue and is the only qualified heart surgeon in the area.
- The hospital administrator’s spouse; the spouse and administrator are your good friends. The spouse is 38 years old.
- The physician who treated Michael Jackson and administrated the sleeping medication to Jackson.
- 38 year old “war on terror” detainee who participated in acts against the United States, but is a US citizen.