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MVD celebrates National Donate Life Month

The New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division is recognizing National Donate Life Month in April and encouraging New Mexicans to become organ donors when they obtain or renew their driver's licenses.

“Signing up to potentially save a life is as simple as checking a box,” said Taxation and Revenue Department Secretary Stephanie Schardin Clarke. “When you apply for your New Mexico license or renew one, you’ll be given the option to register as an organ donor.”

The option to sign up as an organ donor is now the second question on the New Mexico driver's license application, a change made earlier this month that the MVD hopes will increase participation.

A total of 933,613 New Mexicans with driver's licenses or state-issued identification cards are registered as donors. Out of nearly 160,000 people issued credentials this year through March 31, nearly 89,000 chose to become organ donors.

So far this year, 35 life-saving organs have been transplanted in New Mexico, but another 766 people are still awaiting organ transplants, according to New Mexico Donor Services. One donor alone can save the lives of up to eight people and enhance the lives of up to 50 people as a tissue donor.

Signing up while obtaining or renewing a driver's license is the most common way for people to register as donors in New Mexico. People also can register online at registerme.org.

“The MVD plays a crucial role in donation by offering every New Mexican the opportunity to say ‘yes’ to becoming an organ and tissue donor when applying for or renewing their New Mexico driver's license or ID,” according to New Mexico Donor Services. “With their help, we reach more people with the life-saving message of donation and, ultimately, save lives in New Mexico every day.”

Observed in April each year, National Donate Life Month encourages Americans to register as organ, eye and tissue donors and to honor those that have saved lives through the gift of donation.

National Donate Live Blue & Green Day this year will be Friday, April 17.