

Dear Family and Friends,

You may be aware that I have liver disease and my doctor has recommended a liver transplant. This surgery will provide the best option for me to have a better and longer life.

The number of people waiting for a liver transplant is far greater than the number of available deceased-donor livers. The wait time for a deceased donor liver transplant can take up to 5 years or longer. A living donor liver transplant provides an alternative to waiting.

Living donor liver transplantation offers immediate organ availability and is a planned operation, which would help me avoid progression of my liver disease. A living donor liver transplant involves a surgical procedure where a segment of the donor's liver is transplanted into a recipient. This surgery can be timed at the donor's convenience and provides the best quality liver for me.

You may think my donor has to be a family member. Anyone can be a donor as long as our blood types are compatible. Also, the donor should be in good general health, between 18-60 years old and have a desire to donate without being pressured.

Most donors can leave the hospital two to five days after the surgery. Every donor's recovery is different but donors typically spend two to four weeks recovering at home. The donor's occupation will determine when they can return to work.

Although this is hard for me to ask, if you feel this is something you could do, please consider becoming a living donor for me. I fully understand that this is a personal decision that isn't right for everyone. Please know that if you don't feel comfortable with living donation, it will not affect our relationship in any way. If you would like more information about living liver donation, please contact the living donor coordinator at Baylor University Medical Center at 214-820-4438 or at Baylor Scott & White All Saints Medical Center-Fort Worth at 817-922-2990. They will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

As always, thank you for your care and concern.

Sincerely,