

Stephanie Schardin Clarke Cabinet Secretary

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MVD celebrates Donate Life Month

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division recognizes April as National Donate Life Month, encouraging New Mexicans to become organ donors when they obtain or renew their driver's licenses or consider an organ donation awareness registration plate for their vehicle.

"Currently, 56% of individual have checked the box to be an organ donor, and almost 800 vehicles have an organ donation awareness plate," said *Taxation and Revenue Department Secretary Stephanie Schardin Clarke*.

New Mexicans are saving more lives than ever through organ donation. Last year, a record 90 donor heroes saved more than 207 lives in our state, the second highest number in state history.

"Three hospitals in our state had their very first organ donors and four hospitals supported a record number of donor heroes in 2024," states *Celina Espinoza, External Affairs Director at New Mexico Donor Services*. "None of this lifesaving work would happen without the incredible partnership of the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division."

The option to sign up as an organ donor is the first question on the New Mexico driver's license application. Individuals can also register online at <u>donatelifenm.org</u>. People of all ages and medical histories are encouraged to register.

An organ donor awareness plate can be purchased by completing *Form MVD-10666, Application for Organ Donation Awareness Plate* and submitting it to a Motor Vehicle Division office or mailing the application and the fee to the main office. The license plate is an additional fee of \$12 at the time of registration.

Observed in April each year, National Donate Life Month encourages Americans to register as organ, eye and tissue donors and to honor those who saved lives through the gift of donation. One organ donor can save up to eight lives.

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The Motor Vehicle Division strives to offer customers convenient channels to conduct their business. MVD regularly adds to services offered online and through convenient retail kiosks.

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