

THE BEAVERS LAW BITE

2017 -- The year of the Donor

By Kristina Beavers

I didn't used to think very often about organ donors, but that all changed about a year ago when **I was diagnosed** with a rare bone marrow cancer named Myelofibrosis in which my bone marrow turns into scar tissue and therefore can't make blood cells (which is the normal task for bone marrow). There is only one cure for this terminal disease and that is what used to be called a Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT). Over the past few years, there have been many advances in treatment and today the process is physically easier because it can be accomplished through a Stem Cell Transplant (SCT) which is handled much like a blood donation from the donor and transfusion to the recipient.

For some types of cancer, a person can donate their own blood Stem Cells, but for my type of cancer, I don't have anything to donate so I needed to find someone else that was willing to donate their stem cells to me.

I was lucky, and one of my brothers is a match to my blood-type and DNA requirements and he agreed to donate some of his stem cells to me. If I had been unable to find a family member who was a match, there is an international organization called 'Be The Match' which tests people from all over the world and creates a database that can be searched to find someone who is able to provide these life-saving stem cells.

I also needed quite a few transfusions of blood products from the 'normal' blood bank. I used to donate blood through blood drives at church and other organizations. I never thought about who might be using that blood, but I am so very thankful that people have donated their blood which helped me to live.

My eldest son is now 45 years old and he has been a type-I diabetic since he was 14. Over the years, his diabetes has caused kidney failure and he has been on dialysis for the past 5 years. He could not qualify for a kidney transplant from a living donor because of the problems with his pancreas, so he needed a cadaver donor so he could have both the kidney and pancreas transplanted from the same donor. After years of being on the transplant list, he received the double transplant the week before Christmas.

I am so thankful that the family of the donor agreed to donate his organs so that others could be healed.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions about my illness or how you can donate stem cells, blood or organs to those in need.

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January's Sudoku Puzzle: Medium #238

		9		7	1			
	1	5			9	7		
							4	
		2						
				6		1		
6					7	8		9
		6			8	3	5	
2								6
9								

UPCOMING PRESENTATION:

BEAVERS LAW, P.C. to present seminar:

Preventing Elder Abuse through Estate Planning

What: Half-hour presentation with light hor
d'oeuvres

When: Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at 11:30 a.m.

Where: Towne Bank at 5216 Monticello Avenue
Williamsburg, VA 23188

Please RSVP by April 13, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. by
emailing shannon@beaverslaw.com

Last month's answer on our website and Facebook page!

Four-attorneys strong, Beavers Law, P.C. is comprised of attorneys Kristina Beavers, Jeremy Forrest, Shannon Forrest and Sarah Saville. At Beavers Law, P.C., we know that, at any moment, your legal situation can become one of the most important things in your life, and you want to make sure that you know what to expect at every step of the process. Contact our Office at **(757) 234-4650!**

Thank you for the referrals! We appreciate the trust you have placed in us!

- Mark Matney, Attorney
- Gaynette LaRue, Financial Advisor

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