What is a Kidney Donation Chain?

A kidney donation chain is a way to facilitate living donor kidney transplants for the maximum number of people.

A kidney chain is made up of donor-recipient pairs. Each pair consists of:

1. A kidney patient in need of a transplant.
2. A donor willing to donate a kidney on their behalf, but whose kidney is not a perfect match or incompatible.

The chain-starter, usually an altruistic or Good Samaritan donor who wants to donate their kidney to a stranger, donates their kidney to set the chain in motion.

Using the latest in DNA technology, the National Kidney Registry finds Recipient A who is the best match for the chain-starter’s kidney and safely transports the chain-starter’s kidney to Recipient A’s transplant center for transplantation.

Next, Donor A, the donor who wanted to donate their kidney on behalf of Recipient A, donates their kidney, and again, the NKR finds the best matched recipient for that kidney, Recipient B.

Visit FindAKidney.org for more information or contact your Transplant Center Coordinator today to get started!