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No One Really Dies Who Gives His Eyes

Dicta Editorial Board

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NO ONE REALLY DIES WHO GIVES HIS EYES

The title above is taken from a pamphlet distributed by the Colorado Society for the Prevention of Blindness. The Society is an organization which, among other things, operates "eye banks" — clearing houses for corneas and human vitreous, donated by a person at his death so that a living person may have his sight restored.

The society has had many calls from attorneys inquiring as to the procedure in donating eyes to the eye bank. This notice is designed to answer some of the common questions asked.

A clause in a will leaving eyes to an eye bank, without more, is useless. Eyes must be removed as soon after death as possible, at least within five to eight hours. They must be used within forty-eight hours in the recipient. Obviously, then, waiting for probate would take much too long.

However, arrangements can be made now to assure that the eyes will be used at the time of death. The donor and his next of kin simply sign a form prepared by the Colorado Society for the Prevention of Blindness. Next of kin can also sign after the death of the donor, if it is done in time.

Cause of death has little significance with regard to the usefulness of corneal tissue. Nor does the fact that the donor wore glasses affect the usefulness of the cornea.

Of possible interest to the next of kin is the fact that there is no disfigurement after removal of the donated eyes.

The proper course for the lawyer to pursue when a client expresses interest in donating his eyes is to give the client the above facts and advise him to contact the Colorado Society for the Prevention of Blindness, 4200 E. 9th Avenue, Denver 20, Colorado. Mrs. Marvis Quam, executive secretary of the Society, will supply sample forms for donating eyes, however, the actual form to be filled out by a donor must go through the office of the Society.

The attorney advised of these facts may be able to help his client and the blind may see.

BANKERS UNION LIFE SUITE

Cherry Creek, 2nd and Josephine. 2 new offices for attorneys or other professionals. Parking. Must share secretarial expense. DU 8-5694.

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