



Working Together. Saving Lives.

[REDACTED]

Walter Gribben, Executive Director

CONFIDENTIAL MEDICAL PEER REVIEW

August 30, 2011

**VIA FACSIMILE AND CERTIFIED MAIL/RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**

[REDACTED]  
Alabama Organ Center  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]:

The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) is the facilitator of the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN). The UNOS Department of Evaluation and Quality staff continuously reviews organ allocations for all OPTN members.

A media story published on August 11, 2011 outlined the recent termination of two executive level leaders at Alabama Organ Center as a result of "improper financial relationships with a vendor." As a result of the ongoing investigation into this matter, we are contacting you to obtain a complete understanding of what occurred. We appreciate as much detail as you can provide. Any information you provide that may implicate a potential policy or bylaw violation, or which may pose a threat to patient health or public safety may be referred to the Membership and Professional Standards Committee (MPSC)/Policy Compliance Subcommittee (PCSC).

Please address the following issues related to the situation summarized above:

- A spokeswoman for Alabama Organ Center reported this situation does not involve tissue and organ donation or allocation. Please elaborate on this statement in greater detail.
  - Does the issue at hand, in any way, affect the daily operations of the OPO or affect this institutions' ability to operationally serve its local donor service area? Please provide as much detail as possible.
- Please describe in detail Alabama Organ Center's interim personnel plan in the absence of the terminated staff.

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- How will Alabama Organ Center ensure operations and clinical leadership is provided and maintained within the organization?

The bylaws and policies, which guide the sequence of allocation and listing practices, were developed after circulation and discussion among organ transplant professionals and patient representatives. OPTN Bylaws and Policies have been adopted by the OPTN/UNOS Board of Directors in accordance with UNOS' contract with the Health Resources and Services Administration within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. UNOS is responsible under this federal contract for keeping these bylaws and policies current and for monitoring compliance by OPTN members.

Please be aware that this inquiry and all related documents and information are protected by applicable peer review statutes. Members are required to maintain the confidentiality of information provided in the confidential medical peer review processes and settings. Therefore, all inquiries, deliberations, recommendations, and actions of the MPSC, Board of Directors, other committees, and Regional Review Committees must be kept confidential by members during the review process and after the matter is closed. The Board of Directors may make public certain final adverse actions as delineated in the Bylaws as public actions.

I look forward to hearing from you by **September 6, 2011**. Responses can be sent via mail, email and/or fax. I can be contacted at [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Thank you in advance for providing the additional information requested. The transplant community relies on its member's assistance to improve patient safety and the quality of care for transplant recipients.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]