

Illinois Compiled Statutes
Civil Immunities
Good Samaritan Act
745 ILCS 49/

(745 ILCS 49/)

(745 ILCS 49/1)

Sec. 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the Good Samaritan Act.
(Source: P.A. 89-607, eff. 1-1-97.)

(745 ILCS 49/2)

Sec. 2. Legislative purpose. The General Assembly has established numerous protections for the generous and compassionate acts of its citizens who volunteer their time and talents to help others. These protections or good samaritan provisions have been codified in many Acts of the Illinois Compiled Statutes. This Act recodifies existing good samaritan provisions. Further, without limitation the provisions of this Act shall be liberally construed to encourage persons to volunteer their time and talents.
(Source: P.A. 89-607, eff. 1-1-97.)

(745 ILCS 49/5)

Sec. 5. Emergency telephone instructions; exemption from civil liability. No person who gives emergency instructions through a system established under the Emergency Telephone System Act to persons rendering services in an emergency at another location, nor any person following the instructions in rendering the services, shall be liable for any civil damages as a result of issuing or following the instructions, unless issuing or following the instructions constitutes willful or wanton misconduct.
(Source: P.A. 89-607, eff. 1-1-97.)

(745 ILCS 49/10)

Sec. 10. Cardiopulmonary resuscitation; exemption from civil liability for emergency care. Any person currently certified in basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation who complies with generally recognized standards, and who in good faith, not for compensation, provides emergency cardiopulmonary resuscitation to a person who is an apparent victim of acute cardiopulmonary insufficiency shall not, as the result of his or her acts or omissions in providing resuscitation, be liable for civil damages, unless the acts or omissions constitute willful and wanton misconduct.
(Source: P.A. 89-607, eff. 1-1-97; 90-742, eff. 8-13-98.)

(745 ILCS 49/12)

Sec. 12. Use of an automatic external defibrillator; exemption from civil liability for emergency care. Any person who has successfully completed the training requirements of a course in basic emergency care of a person in cardiac arrest that: (i) included training in the operation and use of an automatic external defibrillator; and (ii) was conducted in accordance with the standards of the American Heart Association, and who, in good faith, not for compensation, renders emergency medical care involving the use of an automatic external defibrillator in accordance with his or her training is not liable for any civil damages as a result of any act or omission, except for willful and wanton misconduct, by that person in rendering that care.
(Source: P.A. 90-746, eff. 8-14-98.)

(745 ILCS 49/15)

Sec. 15. Dentists; exemption from civil liability for emergency care. Any dentist or any person licensed as a dentist in any other state or territory of the United States who in good faith provides emergency care without fee to a victim of an accident at the scene of an accident shall not, as a result of his or her acts or omissions, except willful or wanton misconduct on the part of the person, in providing the care, be liable for civil damages.

(Source: P.A. 89-607, eff. 1-1-97.)

(745 ILCS 49/20)

Sec. 20. Free dental clinic; exemption from civil liability for services performed without compensation. Any person licensed under the Illinois Dental Practice Act to practice dentistry or to practice as a dental hygienist who, in good faith, provides dental treatment, dental services, diagnoses, or advice as part of the services of an established free dental clinic providing care to medically indigent patients which is limited to care which does not require the services of a licensed hospital or ambulatory surgical treatment center, and who receives no fee or compensation from that source shall not, as a result of any acts or omissions, except for willful or wanton misconduct on the part of the licensee, in providing dental treatment, dental services, diagnoses or advice, be liable for civil damages. For purposes of this Section, a "free dental clinic" is an organized community based program providing, without charge, dental care to individuals unable to pay for their care. This care shall not include the use of general anesthesia or require an overnight stay in a health care facility.

The provisions of this Section shall not apply in any case unless the free dental clinic has posted in a conspicuous place on its premises an explanation of the immunity from civil liability provided in this Section.

(Source: P.A. 89-607, eff. 1-1-97.)

(745 ILCS 49/25)

Sec. 25. Physicians; exemption from civil liability for emergency care. Any person licensed under the Medical Practice Act of 1987 or any person licensed to practice the treatment of human ailments in any other state or territory of the United States who, in good faith, provides emergency care without fee to a person, shall not, as a result of his or her acts or omissions, except willful or wanton misconduct on the part of the person, in providing the care, be liable for civil damages.

(Source: P.A. 89-607, eff. 1-1-97; 90-742, eff. 8-13-98.)

(745 ILCS 49/30)

Sec. 30. Free medical clinic; exemption from civil liability for services performed without compensation. (a) A person licensed under the Medical Practice Act of 1987, a person licensed to practice the treatment of human ailments in any other state or territory of the United States, or a health care professional, including but not limited to an advanced practice nurse, physician assistant, nurse, pharmacist, physical therapist, podiatrist, or social worker licensed in this State or any other state or territory of the United States, who, in good faith, provides medical treatment, diagnosis, or advice as a part of the services of an established free medical clinic providing care to medically indigent patients which is limited to care that does not require the services of a licensed hospital or ambulatory surgical treatment center and who receives no fee or compensation from that source shall not be liable for civil damages as a result of his or her acts or omissions in providing that medical treatment, except for willful or wanton misconduct.

(b) For purposes of this Section, a "free medical clinic" is an organized community based program providing medical care without charge to individuals unable to pay for it, at which the care provided does not include the use of general anesthesia or require an overnight stay in a health-care facility.

(c) The provisions of subsection (a) of this Section do not apply to a particular case unless the free medical clinic has posted in a conspicuous place on its premises an explanation of the exemption from civil liability provided herein.

(d) The immunity from civil damages provided under subsection (a) also applies to physicians, hospitals, and other health care providers that provide further medical treatment, diagnosis, or advice to a patient upon referral from an established free medical clinic without fee or compensation.

(e) Nothing in this Section prohibits a free medical clinic from accepting voluntary contributions for medical services provided to a patient who has acknowledged his or her ability and willingness to pay a portion of the value of the medical services provided.

Any voluntary contribution collected for providing care at a free medical clinic shall be used only to pay overhead expenses of operating the clinic. No portion of any moneys collected shall be used to provide a fee or other compensation to any person licensed under Medical Practice Act of 1987.

(Source: P.A. 89-607, eff. 1-1-97; 90-742, eff. 8-13-98.)

(745 ILCS 49/34)

Sec. 34. Advanced practice nurse; exemption from civil liability for emergency care. A person licensed as an advanced practice nurse under the Nursing and Advanced Practice Nursing Act who in good faith provides emergency care without fee to a person shall not be liable for civil damages as a result of his or her acts or omissions, except for willful or wanton misconduct on the part of the person in providing the care.

(Source: P.A. 90-742, eff. 8-13-98.)

(745 ILCS 49/35)

Sec. 35. Nurses; exemption from civil liability for emergency care. Any person licensed as a professional nurse or as a practical nurse in Illinois or any other state or territory of the United States who in good faith provides emergency care without fee to a person shall not, as a result of her or his acts or omissions, except for willful or wanton misconduct on the part of the person, in providing the care, be liable for civil damages.

(Source: P.A. 89-607, eff. 1-1-97; 90-742, eff. 8-13-98.)

(745 ILCS 49/40)

Sec. 40. Nurses; exemption from civil liability for services performed without compensation.

(a) No person licensed as a professional nurse or as a practical nurse under the Nursing and Advanced Practice Nursing Act who, without compensation, renders nursing services shall be liable, and no cause of action may be brought, for damages resulting from an act or omission in rendering such services unless the act or omission involved willful or wanton misconduct.

(b) (Blank).

(c) As used in this Section "entity" means a proprietorship, partnership, association or corporation, whether or not operated for profit.

(d) Nothing in this Section is intended to bar any cause of action against an entity or change the liability of an entity which arises out of an act or omission of any person exempt from liability for negligence under this Section.

(Source: P.A. 89-607, eff. 1-1-97; 90-742, eff. 8-13-98.)

(745 ILCS 49/42)

Sec. 42. Optometrists; exemption from civil liability for emergency care. Any optometrist or any person licensed as an optometrist in any other state or territory of the United States who in good faith provides emergency care without fee to a victim of an accident at the scene of an accident shall not, as a result of his or her acts or omissions, except willful or wanton misconduct on the part of the person, in providing the care, be liable for civil damages.

(Source: P.A. 90-413, eff. 1-1-98.)

(745 ILCS 49/45)

Sec. 45. Physical Therapist; exemption from civil liability for emergency care. Any physical therapist, as defined in Section 1 of the Illinois Physical Therapy Act, who in good faith provides emergency care without fee to any person shall not, as a result of his or her acts or omissions, except willful and wanton misconduct on the part of the person in providing the care, be liable to a person to whom such care is provided for civil damages.

(Source: P.A. 89-607, eff. 1-1-97; 90-742, eff. 8-13-98.)

(745 ILCS 49/46)

Sec. 46. Physician assistant; exemption from civil liability for emergency care. A person licensed as a physician assistant under the Physician Assistant Practice Act of 1987 who in good faith provides emergency care without fee to a person shall not be liable for civil damages as a result of his or her acts or omissions, except for willful or wanton misconduct on the part of the person in providing the care.

(Source: P.A. 91-446, eff. 8-6-99.)

(745 ILCS 49/50)

Sec. 50. Podiatrist; exemption from civil liability for emergency care. Any person licensed to practice podiatric medicine in Illinois, or licensed under an Act of any other state or territory of the United States, who in good faith provides emergency care without fee to a victim of an accident at the scene of an accident or in case of nuclear attack shall not, as a result of his acts or omissions, except willful or wanton misconduct on the part of the person in providing the care, be liable for civil damages.

(Source: P.A. 89-607, eff. 1-1-97.)

(745 ILCS 49/55)

Sec. 55. Respiratory care practitioner; exemption from civil liability for emergency care. A person licensed under the Respiratory Care Practice Act or any person licensed as a respiratory care practitioner in another state or territory, who in good faith provides emergency care, without a fee, to a victim of an accident at the scene of an accident or to a victim of a natural disaster, including but not limited to an earthquake, hurricane, tornado, nuclear attack, or other similar emergency, shall not, as a result of his or her acts or omissions, except for willful or wanton misconduct in providing care, be liable for civil damages.

(Source: P.A. 89-607, eff. 1-1-97.)

(745 ILCS 49/60)

Sec. 60. Veterinarians; exemption from civil liability for emergency care to humans. Any person licensed under the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 1994 or any person licensed as a veterinarian in any other state or territory of the United States who in good faith provides emergency care to a human victim of an accident, at the scene of an accident or in a catastrophe shall not be liable for civil damages as a result of his or her acts or omissions, except for willful or wanton misconduct on the part of the person in providing the care.

(Source: P.A. 89-607, eff. 1-1-97; 90-742, eff. 8-13-98.)

(745 ILCS 49/65)

Sec. 65. Choking victim at food-service establishment; exemption from civil liability for emergency assistance. Except as provided by law, no person shall be obligated to remove, assist in removing, or attempt to remove, food from another person's throat, nor shall any person who in good faith removes or attempts to remove food in an emergency occurring at a food-service establishment as defined in the Choke-Saving Methods Act be liable for any civil damages as a result of any acts or omissions by that person in rendering emergency assistance.

(Source: P.A. 89-607, eff. 1-1-97.)

(745 ILCS 49/70)

Sec. 70. Law enforcement officers or firemen; exemption from civil liability for emergency care. Any law enforcement officer or fireman as defined in Section 2 of the Law Enforcement Officers, Civil Defense Workers, Civil Air Patrol Members, Paramedics, Firemen, Chaplains, and State Employees Compensation Act, who in good faith provides emergency care without fee to any person shall not, as a result of his or her acts or omissions, except willful and wanton misconduct on the part of the person, in providing the care, be liable to a person to whom such care is provided for civil damages.

(Source: P.A. 89-607, eff. 1-1-97; 90-742, eff. 8-13-98.)

(745 ILCS 49/75)

Sec. 75. Employers and employees under the Health and Safety Act; exemption from civil liability for emergency care. Any employer, who in good faith provides emergency medical or first aid care without fee to any employee or any other person employed on the same project shall not, as a result of his or her acts or omissions, except willful and wanton misconduct on the part of the employer, in providing the care, be liable to such employee or such other person to whom such care is provided for civil damages. Any employee who in good faith provides emergency medical or first aid care without fee to any other employee or any other person employed on the same project shall not, as a result of his or her acts or omissions, except for willful and wanton misconduct on the part of the employee in providing the care, be liable to the employee or other person to whom the care is provided for civil damages. Excluded from the operation of this Section are any employees who are licensed physicians, nurses, dentists, or other licensed health services personnel.

The provisions of this Section do not affect or in any way diminish or change an employer's liability under the Workers' Compensation Act, or the Workers' Occupational Diseases Act. This Section applies only to employers and employees under the Health and Safety Act.

(Source: P.A. 89-607, eff. 1-1-97; 90-742, eff. 8-13-98.)