

Scope of Practice: Physician Assistant Participating in Disaster or Emergency Care

27 V.I.C. 50s

When an emergency declaration is in effect, a physician assistant can provide care without supervision if it is not available. A physician assistant who, voluntarily and without compensation, provides emergency medical assistance at any location other than a hospital, physician's office, or other health care facility will not be held legally responsible for acting or failing to act. They can be held legally responsible if acting with extreme carelessness or intent to cause harm.

This section only applies to a physician assistant who provides care outside of their regular place of employment.

Participation in disaster and emergency care

(a) A physician assistant licensed in this Territory or licensed or authorized to practice in any state or territory of the United States who is responding to a need for emergency medical care created by an emergency or local disaster, other than an emergency situation that occurs in the place of his employment, may render such care that he is able to provide without supervision as it is defined in section 50j, or with such supervision as is available.

(b) Any physician who supervises a physician assistant providing medical care in response to such an emergency or local disaster is not required to meet the requirements set forth in this subchapter for an approved supervising physician.

(c) No physician assistant licensed in this Territory or licensed or authorized to practice in other territories or

states of the United States who voluntarily and gratuitously, and other than in the ordinary course of employment or practice, renders emergency medical assistance is liable for civil damages for any personal injuries that result from acts or omissions by the person in rendering emergency care which may constitute ordinary negligence. The immunity granted by this section does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, willful, or wanton negligence or when the medical assistance is rendered at any hospital, physician's office, or other health care delivery entity where those services are normally rendered. No physician who supervises a physician assistant voluntarily and gratuitously providing emergency care as described in this subsection is liable for civil damages for any personal injuries, which result from acts or omissions by the physician assistant rendering emergency care.