

Good Samaritan Law

27 V.I.C. 42

An individual who, voluntarily and without compensation, provides emergency assistance to a person in need will not be held legally responsible for acting or failing to act while providing emergency assistance. They can be held legally responsible if acting with extreme carelessness or intent to cause harm.

Generally, Good Samaritan laws only offer protection for those individuals who provide care during spontaneous emergencies unrelated to volunteer deployment.

Immunity in emergency

(a) This section may be cited as "The Good Samaritan Law."

(b) No person who voluntarily and gratuitously renders emergency assistance to a person in need thereof, shall be liable for civil damages for any personal injuries or property damage which result from acts or omissions by such person in rendering emergency assistance, which may constitute ordinary negligence; Provided, however, That such immunity does not apply to acts or omissions constituting gross, willful or wanton negligence.

(c) Subsection (a) shall be applicable to all persons, including non-profit groups and the individuals that work in them who voluntarily render counseling, advocacy, support, or other services to people in need thereof, including victims of crimes such as rape, domestic violence, assault, or battery, whether or not it is in an emergency situation.

(d) Reimbursement of a non-profit group's operating expenses or wages of their volunteers does not render such group or its members ineligible for the immunity granted under this statute by grant or donation, or the payment by

FEMA through VITEMA or other governmental agencies during a Declared State of Emergency.