

The Texas Good Samaritan Act

The Texas Good Samaritan Act, found in Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code section 74.151, protects individuals who offer emergency medical care in good faith from liability for civil damages, unless their actions are willfully or wantonly negligent. This law encourages people to help others in emergencies without fear of being sued for unintentional harm.

Key aspects of the Texas Good Samaritan Act:

- **Good faith:** The law applies to individuals who sincerely and honestly intend to help a person in distress.
- **Emergency care:** The protection extends to providing emergency medical assistance, whether it's basic first aid, CPR, or other life-saving measures.
- **No liability for ordinary negligence:** The law protects individuals from being sued for negligence in providing emergency care, as long as their actions are not willfully or wantonly negligent.
- **Examples of protection:** The law covers situations like assisting at a car accident, providing care to a near-drowning victim, or helping someone who has overdosed.
- **Exceptions to protection:** The law does not protect individuals who intentionally cause harm, who are at the scene only to solicit business, or who are receiving compensation for their aid.
- **Public health benefits:** The Good Samaritan Act encourages individuals to help others in emergencies, potentially saving lives.

In essence, the Texas Good Samaritan Act is designed to foster a culture of helping others in distress by providing legal protection to individuals who act in good faith to provide emergency medical assistance, without fear of being sued for unintentional harm.