



SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY

WNC is offering free AED, CPR, and First Aid training to all employees on all campuses. Volunteers in Nevada are covered by Good Samaritan laws.

The basic purpose of Good Samaritan laws is to encourage people to help others in an emergency without fear of being sued or held liable if their assistance accidentally causes harm. By removing the fear of legal consequences, these laws make people more likely to help in an emergency, increasing the chances that a victim will receive immediate assistance until professional help arrives. These laws provide legal protection to bystanders who act in good faith to assist someone who is injured or in danger.

Every state has Good Samaritan laws, but they differ by state. Nevada's Good Samaritan law (NRS 41.500) offers protection to a wide range of individuals, including:

- Any person rendering emergency care.
- Volunteer ambulance drivers and attendants.
- Volunteer members of a public fire-fighting agency.
- Members of a search and rescue organization operating under the supervision of a county sheriff.
- Individuals who have completed a CPR course or are directed by an emergency dispatcher to perform CPR.
- Anyone who uses an automated external defibrillator (AED) in an emergency.
- Applies to those without a duty to act: The protection typically applies to bystanders and volunteers, as well as medical professionals who are not on duty or do not have a pre-existing duty to treat the person, such as a hospital employee treating a patient.

There are limitations to the Good Samaritan Law. Nevada's Good Samaritan law does not apply in either of these two key circumstances:

- **Gross Negligence:** Gross negligence is a significant exception and may not be protected by Nevada law. It covers intentional misconduct or conduct that demonstrates a severe lack of concern for the safety of others.
- **On-Duty Medical Professionals:** Only volunteers are covered by Good Samaritan laws in Nevada. On-duty medical professionals are expected to adhere to a higher standard of care consistent with their training and experience. When medical professionals are officially on duty and performing their roles, they are not covered by the Good Samaritan law and can be held liable for negligence.

THANK YOU, WNC, FOR MAKING SAFETY A PRIORITY!

NEVADA'S GOOD SAMARITAN LAW

HISTORY OF GOOD SAMARITAN LAWS

The phrase "Good Samaritan" originates from a parable told in the Bible within the Gospel of Luke. It describes a Samaritan man (a historic ethnoreligious group in Samaria) who helps a traveler beaten and left for dead, while other people passed by without assisting.

Over the centuries, the term "Good Samaritan" has evolved to refer to anyone who selflessly helps others in need, regardless of their own inconvenience or risk.

The first Good Samaritan law was passed in 1959 in California to encourage doctors to stop if they recognized a medical emergency was taking place outside of a medical setting. Today, the law has extended to bystanders (though this can vary in some states).

No general duty to rescue:

In most cases, a person in Nevada is not legally required to stop and help a stranger in distress.

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