

Good Samaritan Report

Crystal S. Graening

University of Mary

This report will focus on [Minnesota's Good Samaritan Law](#). Under Minnesota's law, a nurse who is not working at the time is protected like any other individual who is at the scene of an emergency and provides reasonable assistance to the person(s). The law states that any person who without compensation or expecting compensation can provide emergency care, advice, or assistance at the scene of an emergency or during transit to a location where medical attention can be received, does not have any liability for any civil damages. This includes nurses who are at the scene and not receiving compensation or expecting any compensation (Minnesota, 2019).

Per the law, the nurse, who is not receiving or expecting compensation, has a duty to assist when he/she is a person at the scene of an emergency and knows another person or persons have been exposed to or physically harmed if he/she is on the scene of an emergency. This can occur as long as the person assisting can provide reasonable assistance without a danger to his/herself. Additionally, like with other individuals under the Good Samaritan Law, a nurse who provides assistance, advice, or emergency care cannot do so in a willful and wanton or reckless manner. If assistance is offered by a person, including a nurse, it is additionally required that the person stays with the individual(s) until another person or assistive personal has arrived (Minnesota, 2019).

A nurse is not required to render care in all medical situations. Per Minnesota's Good Samaritan Law, if the person, including nurses, cannot provide assistance without danger or peril being placed upon themselves, assistance should not be given. However, it is still the duty of a nurse or any other person to attempt to obtain aid and assistance from medical personnel or law enforcement if he/she is at the scene of an emergency. If a person objects to any of the assistance being provided, such as the use of an automatic external defibrillator, the nurse is also not required to render care per Minnesota's Good Samaritan Law (2019).

Lastly, the state of Minnesota does not currently have a law in place that requires licensed healthcare professionals to stop and provide assistance, though some states do (Mackay & Starr, 2019). Mackay and Starr (2019) add that legally, a nurse does not have to stop in most states (Minnesota included), though ethically and morally most feel a duty to do so . If a nurse choses to do so, assistance and care should be provided to the person(s) reasonably and until further help arrives per Minnesota's Good Samaritan Law.

References

Mackay, T. R., & Starr, K. T. (2019). Can you risk being a Good Samaritan? *Nursing2019*, 49(3), 14. doi: 10.1097/01.NURSE.0000547733.97426.fa

Minnesota. (2019). *Minnesota Good Samaritan laws*. St. Paul, Minn.: Legislative Service Bureau. Retrieved February 16, 2020 from <https://www.revisor.mn.gov/statutes/cite/604A.01/pdf>