

§2904. Immunity from civil liability for volunteer activities

1. Health care practitioners. Notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of any public or private and special law, an individual is not liable for an injury or death arising from medical services provided as described in this subsection unless the injury or death was caused willfully, wantonly or recklessly or by gross negligence of the individual if that individual is:

A. A licensed health care practitioner who voluntarily, without the expectation or receipt of monetary or other compensation either directly or indirectly, provides professional services, including services provided through telehealth as defined in Title 24-A, section 4316, subsection 1, paragraph E, within the scope of that health care practitioner's licensure:

- (1) To a nonprofit organization;
- (2) To an agency of the State or any political subdivision of the State;
- (3) To members or recipients of services of a nonprofit organization or state or local agency;
- (4) To support the State's response to a public health threat as defined in Title 22, section 801, subsection 10;
- (5) To support the State's response to an extreme public health emergency as defined in Title 22, section 801, subsection 4-A; or
- (6) To support the State's response to a disaster as defined in Title 37-B, section 703, subsection 2; [PL 2019, c. 289, §1 (AMD).]

B. An emergency medical services person who voluntarily, without the expectation or receipt of monetary or other compensation either directly or indirectly, provides emergency medical services within the scope of that person's licensure:

- (1) To support the State's response to a public health threat as defined in Title 22, section 801, subsection 10;
- (2) To support the State's response to an extreme public health emergency as defined in Title 22, section 801, subsection 4-A; or
- (3) To support the State's response to a disaster as defined in Title 37-B, section 703, subsection 2; or [PL 2017, c. 396, §2 (AMD).]

C. A volunteer health practitioner who provides health services or veterinary services pursuant to the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act. [PL 2017, c. 396, §3 (NEW).]
[PL 2019, c. 289, §1 (AMD).]

2. Retired physicians, podiatrists and dentists. Notwithstanding any inconsistent provision of any public or private and special law, a licensed physician, podiatrist or dentist who has retired from practice and who voluntarily, without the expectation or receipt of monetary or other compensation either directly or indirectly, provides professional services within the scope of that physician's, podiatrist's or dentist's licensure is not liable for an injury or death arising from those services unless the injury or death was caused willfully, wantonly or recklessly by the physician, podiatrist or dentist for professional services provided:

- A. To a nonprofit organization; [PL 2003, c. 438, §2 (NEW).]
- B. To an agency of the State or any political subdivision of the State; [PL 2003, c. 438, §2 (NEW).]
- C. To members or recipients of services of a nonprofit organization or state or local agency; [PL 2003, c. 438, §2 (NEW).]

D. To support the State's response to a public health threat as defined in Title 22, section 801, subsection 10; [PL 2003, c. 438, §2 (NEW).]

E. To support the State's response to an extreme public health emergency as defined in Title 22, section 801, subsection 4-A; or [PL 2003, c. 438, §2 (NEW).]

F. To support the State's response to a disaster as defined in Title 37-B, section 703, subsection 2. [PL 2003, c. 438, §2 (NEW).]

The extended immunity under this subsection applies only if the licensed physician, podiatrist or dentist is retired from practice, possessed an unrestricted license in the relevant profession and had not been disciplined by the licensing board in the previous 5 years at the time of the act or omission causing the injury.

[PL 2003, c. 438, §2 (RPR).]

3. Definitions. As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Dentist" means a person who practices dentistry according to the provisions of Title 32, section 18371. [PL 2015, c. 429, §9 (AMD).]

B. "Health care practitioner" has the same meaning as in section 2502. [PL 2003, c. 438, §2 (RPR).]

C. "Nonprofit organization" does not include a hospital. [PL 2003, c. 438, §2 (RPR).]

D. "Podiatrist" has the same meaning as in Title 32, section 3551. [PL 2003, c. 438, §2 (RPR).]

E. "Emergency medical services person" means a basic emergency medical services person, as defined in Title 32, section 83, subsection 6, and an advanced emergency medical person, as defined in Title 32, section 83, subsection 1. [PL 2019, c. 370, §7 (AMD).]

F. "Volunteer health practitioner" has the same meaning as in Title 37-B, section 949-A, subsection 16. [PL 2017, c. 396, §4 (NEW).]

[PL 2019, c. 370, §7 (AMD).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1977, c. 492, §3 (NEW). PL 1989, c. 74, §1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 239, §1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 385, §1 (AMD). PL 1995, c. 625, §C3 (RPR). PL 2003, c. 438, §2 (RPR). RR 2005, c. 2, §§19, 20 (COR). PL 2015, c. 429, §9 (AMD). PL 2017, c. 396, §§1-4 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 289, §1 (AMD). PL 2019, c. 370, §7 (AMD).

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