

GOOD SAMARITAN LAWS INSTRUCTOR'S GUIDE

BACKGROUND:

Good Samaritan laws are not often taught in residency, yet they are an important subject matter relevant to all physicians.

PURPOSE & GOALS:

To provide a general overview of Good Samaritan laws, portray realistic scenarios with associated questions to prompt discussion, describe real-life cases relevant to Good Samaritan laws and their outcomes, discuss state variability in legal obligation and protection, and provide facts about in-flight emergencies.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this didactic, the learner will be able to:

- Describe the goals of Good Samaritan Laws
- Define the criteria that must be met for Good Samaritan Laws to be applicable
- Recognize how location is relevant to the utilization of Good Samaritan Laws
- Identify when physicians are legally obligated to help
- Discuss the obligations and protections in place for in-flight emergencies

RESOURCE FILES:

1. **Good Samaritan Laws** Didactic (filename: [good.samaritan.laws.cts.pptx](#))
 - This didactic provides an overview of Good Samaritan laws
 - Estimated time: 60 minutes
2. **Summary Handout** (filename: [good.samaritan.laws.summary.handout.pdf](#))
 - This document provides a summary of the teaching points for the module

TOTAL MODULE DURATION: 60 minutes

REQUIRED RESOURCES:

- Computer with capability of running PowerPoint

DESCRIPTION OF MODULE:

Intended Audience

- This module was developed for medical students, EM residents at any level of training and attending physicians

Pre-reading

- McGrane K, Moore GP, Cookman L. Special report: Good samaritan law and the emergency physician: where are you covered? *Relias Media*. 2009; 1-7.
- Stewart PH, Agin WS, Douglas SP. What does the law say to good samaritans? *Chest*. 2013; 143(6): 1774-1783.

Recommended implementation/timeline

- Pre-module
 - Prior to attending the didactic, the pre-reading should be provided to the learners, which will allow for them to focus on more advanced topics and raise informed questions throughout the session.
- During the module
 - Pretest: The learners will begin with a pre-test (embedded within the powerpoint slides) designed to test their basic knowledge about Good Samaritan Laws. (10 minutes)
 - **Good Samaritan Laws** Didactic presented by a senior resident or faculty member. (40 minutes)
 - Post-test: The learners will then end with a post-test (embedded within the powerpoint slides) to evaluate their comprehension of the material about Good Samaritan Laws. (10 minutes)

CONCLUSIONS:

Good Samaritan emergency care is part of the ABEM Model of Clinical Practice, which is designed for use as the core document for our specialty, and a foundation for developing residency curricula. This module was developed to train medical student and residents in the basics concepts of good Samaritan emergency care, with a focus on its legal components. After completion of this curricular module, learners will better understand the definition, goals and application of Good Samaritan laws to help inform their own practice and how they might respond to out-of-hospital medical emergencies.

REFERENCES:

1. Boccasile v Cajun Music Limited et al, Rhode Island 694 A2d 686, 1997.
2. Brown SM. Good samaritan laws: protections and limits. *RN Legally Speaking*. 1999; 62(11): 65-68.
3. Dachs RJ, Elias JM. What you need to know when called upon to be a good samaritan. *Family Practice Management*. 2008; 4: 37-40.
4. Isakov A. Management of inflight medical events on commercial airlines. In: UpToDate, Waltham, MA, 2018.
5. Matt SB. Good samaritan laws: will I be protected if I help? *The nurse practitioner*. 2018; 43(3): 52-54.
6. McGrane K, Moore GP, Cookman L. Special report: Good samaritan law and the emergency physician: where are you covered? *Relias Media*. 2009; 1-7.
7. McIntyre v. Ramirez, Texas No. 01-1203, June 26, 2003.
8. Stewart PH, Agin WS, Douglas SP. What does the law say to good samaritans? *Chest*. 2013; 143(6): 1774-1783.
9. Velasquez v. Jimenez, New Jersey No. A-105-00, May 29, 2002.