



The American Medical Association provides a state listing of licensing provisions and liability laws for senior physicians who would like to serve as volunteers.

State	Volunteer / Limited License Offered	Liability Laws for Volunteer Physicians
Alabama	Retired physicians may obtain a limited license, without charge, if they have been licensed in any state previously. Ala Code § 34-24-75.1	Medical professional who offers charitable services in established free medical clinic or volunteers of non-profit organizations are immune from civil liability if the volunteers actions in good faith, within the scope of his official functions and duties, and does not represent willful or wanton misconduct. Requires notification of patients. Ala Code § 6-5-663
Alaska	No provisions for volunteer or retired.	No statute.
Arizona	Pro Bono license available for no fee. Must hold an active license from any state or territory or an active or inactive Arizona license. License is restricted to 60 days of practice per year. Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 32-1428	Arizona law establishes immunity for volunteers acting in good faith and within the scope of volunteer duties for government entities or nonprofit corporations, organizations or hospitals. Vicarious liability of the organization can be established if the volunteer was working in the scope of official duties and functions. Ariz. Rev. Stat § 12- 982 A health care professional who provides medical treatment is only liable for gross negligence where neither the healthcare professional or clinic does not receive compensation. Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 12-571
Arkansas	No provisions for volunteer or retired.	Volunteers are immune from civil liability unless conduct constitutes gross negligence or willful misconduct. For immunity to apply, the patient must acknowledge the physician's immunity from civil suit. If the volunteer has liability insurance, liability is limited to the limit of the insurance policy. Ark. Code. Ann § 16-1-6-2 Immunity from civil liability for healthcare professionals, dentists and students of healthcare professionals who perform voluntary services for free or nominal charge at a free or low cost health clinic, unless the healthcare professional's actions constitute gross negligence or willful misconduct. For immunity to apply, the patient must acknowledge, in writing, that they have been informed that the healthcare professional is immune from civil liability. 2007 Arkansas Laws Act 120 (HB 1282) & 837 (HB 2657)
California	Volunteer Service License, no fee. Ca. Stat. Ann. § 4180	No statute.



	Retired license, no fee. Ca. Stat. Ann. § 4200.5	
Colorado	No provisions for volunteer or retired.	No civil liability except for wanton misconduct willful negligence. Patient must have notice of limited liability. Colo. Rev. Stat. § 13-21-115.5
Connecticut	No provisions for volunteer or retired.	Charitable immunity for non-profit volunteer. Specifically references volunteer health care professional, retired physicians, certain health care settings, and limited to certain services. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 52-557b
Delaware	No provisions for volunteer or retired.	Charitable immunity for non-profit volunteer. Specifically references volunteer health care professional, retired physicians, certain health care settings, and limited to certain services. 10 Del. Code. Ann. § 8135
District of Columbia	No provisions for volunteer or retired.	Licensed physicians who, in good faith, provide health care or treatment at or on behalf of a free health clinic without the expectation of receiving or intending to receive compensation shall not be liable in civil damages for any act or omission in the course of rendering the health care or treatment, unless the act or omission is an intentional wrong or manifests a willful or wanton disregard for the health or safety of others. In order to qualify for this immunity, physicians must require prospective patients to sign a written statement witnessed by two persons in which the parties agree to the rendering of the health care or treatment. Free clinics that cannot afford liability insurance and their volunteers can be part of a federal indemnity program and are considered District employees for indemnification purposes. D.D. Code Ann. § 7-402 Law provides immunity from civil liability for a volunteer of a corporation, if the corporation maintains liability insurance. A volunteer is defined as an officer, director, or trustee or other person who performs services for the corporation and who does not receive compensation other than reimbursement for those services. A volunteer is not immune where an injury or damage was a result of willful misconduct or where an act or omission was not in good faith and beyond the scope of the corporation's authority. D.C. Code Ann. § 29-301.113
Florida	Limited license is available for retired physicians wishing to volunteer	Volunteer for a non-profit is not liable except for gross or negligent misconduct. Patients



	<p>services, no fee. Must practice in a government or 501c(3) organization in an area to be determined to be an area of critical need by the board. Fla. Stat. ch. 458.317</p>	<p>must receive prior notice of limited liability. Fla. Stat. ch. 766.1115</p>
Georgia	<p>Volunteer in Medicine license, no fee. Ga. Code Ann. § 43-1-28</p>	<p>Volunteer for a non-profit or government organization such as a physician who renders care without the expectation of compensation, is granted civil immunity except for gross or negligent or willful or wanton misconduct. Patients must receive prior notice of limited liability. Ga. Code Ann. § 51-1-29.1</p>
Hawaii	<p>No provisions for volunteer or retired.</p>	<p>A volunteer is immune from civil liability, if the volunteer's actions are in good faith and within the scope of his official functions and duties for a non-profit organization, non-profit hospital, hospital, or governmental entity. Volunteer is not liable unless wanton misconduct or willful negligence if the organization carries liability insurance of no less than 200K for single occurrence OR if the organization has less than 50K in assets. Haw. Rev. Stat. § 662D-3</p>
Idaho	<p>No provisions for volunteer or retired.</p>	<p>Health care provider at charitable clinic is immune from liability. If liability insurance exists, person is liable to the extent of the policy. Idaho Code § 39-7703</p> <p>_____</p> <p>A volunteer who serves a non-profit corporation or organization without compensation shall be immune from civil liability arising out of his conduct as an officer, director, or volunteer, if such conduct is within the scope of his official functions and duties and at the direction of the non-profit corporation or organization. Immunity will not be granted if the conduct of the officer, director, or volunteer is willful, wanton, involves fraud or a knowing violation of the law, or intentional conduct that is not in good faith. Idaho Code § 6-16-5</p>
Illinois	<p>No provisions for volunteer or retired.</p>	<p>A physician who volunteers services at a free medical clinic to the indigent is exempt from civil liability except for wanton misconduct or gross negligence. Patients must receive prior notice of limited liability. 745 ILCS 49/30</p>
Indiana	<p>Retired inactive status – can practice with no restrictions as long as there is no compensation. Fee of \$100 every 2 years. Must be fully licensed in Indiana prior to application. Physicians from</p>	<p>A health care provider, including a retired physician, who voluntarily provides health care at a medical clinic or health care facility is immune from civil liability arising from the care provided, unless in delivering care the</p>



	<p>other states wishing to volunteer in Indiana are limited to 30 days of practice per year with a Limited Scope license. Ind. Code Ann. § 25-22.5-6-1</p>	<p>provider's acts or omissions constitute a criminal act, gross negligence, or willful or wanton misconduct. Ind. Code Ann. § 34-30-13-1</p>
Iowa	<p>No provisions for volunteer or retired.</p>	<p>Volunteer physician program within the Iowa Department of Public Health which provides for immunity from liability in certain circumstances. These circumstances include instances when a physician, registered with the Department as being part of the program, provides free medical care at specified hospitals and clinics. While delivering free care under the program, a physician is considered an employee of the state and receive certain immunity from liability. Iowa Code Ann. § 135.24</p>
Kansas	<p>Exempt status for retired physicians to provide direct patient care gratuitously. Reduced fee. Kan. Stat. Ann. § 65-2809</p>	<p>Volunteer of a non-profit is not liable if the organization has liability insurance, health care not specifically named. Kan. Stat. Ann. § 40-3402</p>
Kentucky	<p>No provisions for volunteer or retired.</p>	<p>Volunteer for a non-profit is not liable except for wanton misconduct or gross negligence. Ky. Rev. Stat. § 39A.280</p>
Louisiana	<p>No provisions for volunteer or retired.</p>	<p>Health care worker providing free care in a community health clinic is not liable for acts or omission in rendering care or for an act or failure to act in providing or arranging for further services. This immunity from liability is valid only if the patient was notified of the limited liability. La. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 9:2799.5</p>
Maine	<p>Retired physician license for those doing volunteer work for indigent individuals. Fee is \$75. Code of Maine Rules 02-373-001</p>	<p>Maine grants civil liability immunity for physicians (including retired) who voluntarily render uncompensated medical care for a nonprofit organization or agency of the state, except in the case of wanton misconduct or willful negligence. 24 Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 2904</p> <p>Volunteer has civil immunity for charitable services provided to a non-profit organization, unless the act or omission is not within the scope of the volunteers functions and duties. 14 Me. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 158-A</p>
Maryland	<p>Special volunteer license with no fee. Must submit the form to the volunteer agency and attest to the fact that the license will be used only in volunteer capacity. Md. Code Ann. § 8-312</p>	<p>Maryland provides civil immunity from personal liability to volunteers who render certain services under specified circumstances. Circumstances include health care providers or physicians who render health care services voluntarily and without compensation to any person seeking health care through a charitable organization</p>

		<p>chartered to provide health care services to homeless and indigent patients. Such volunteers are not liable for any amount in excess of any applicable limit of insurance coverage in any suit for civil damages for any act or omission resulting from the rendering of such services, unless the act or omission constitutes: a) willful or wanton misconduct, b) gross negligence, or c) intentionally tortuous conduct.</p> <p>Md. Code Ann. § 5-606</p>
Massachusetts	No provisions for volunteer or retired.	<p>Limit on liability to 20K for a charitable organization. Healthcare worker not liable for volunteer care.</p> <p>Current Law for Liability: Ma. Stat. Ann. ch. 231, § 85k</p>
Michigan	No provisions for volunteer or retired.	<p>Law protects physicians from liability for care provided at a free clinic, or care provided as a result of a referral from a free clinic. Patients must receive prior notice of limited liability.</p> <p>Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 333.16277</p> <p>_____</p> <p>A non-profit corporation assumes the liability for all acts or omissions of a volunteer director, volunteer officer, or other volunteer, if the volunteer was acting within the scope of his authority, acting in good faith, and their conduct was not an intentional tort.</p> <p>Mich. Comp. Laws Ann. § 450.2209</p>
Minnesota	No provisions for volunteer or retired.	<p>Physicians in certain charitable health care settings performing limited services are immune.</p> <p>Minn. Stat. Ann. § 214.40</p>
Mississippi	<p>License for retired physicians who wish to volunteer services. Valid for one year, No fee.</p> <p>Miss. Code Ann. § 73-25-18</p>	<p>Mississippi grants immunity from liability for any civil action to a licensed physician who, in good faith on a charitable basis, voluntarily provides medical or health services to any person without the expectation of payment. Immunity will only be extended if the physician and patient execute a written waiver in advance of the rendering of medical services, specifying that such services are provided without the expectation of payment and that the physician shall be immune from liability, unless the act or omission is the result of the physician's gross negligence or willful misconduct. A physician assistant is also immune from liability where medical and health services are provided.</p> <p>2007 Miss. Laws chapter 428 (S.B. 2234)</p>
Missouri	Limited license for retired physicians who have practiced for at least 10 years. Some restrictions on services physician can offer – e.g. no controlled	<p>Volunteer of non-profit is immune to liability with the exception of negligence or misconduct – medical personnel not specifically mentioned.</p>



	substances. Fee not to exceed \$25. Mo. Ann. Stat. § 334.112	Mo. Ann. Stat. § 537.118
Montana	No provisions for volunteer or retired.	A healthcare practitioner who provides free service is not liable for civil damages with the exception of wanton misconduct, so long as patients receive prior notice of limited liability. Mont. Code Ann. § 27-1-732-736
Nebraska	No provisions for volunteer or retired.	No statute for volunteer of a non-profit or volunteer organization.
Nevada	Special volunteer license, requires acknowledgement of no compensation and care only for indigent. No fee. Renewable annually.. Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 630.258	Civil immunity for physicians, including retired physicians, who offer care and/or provide emergency obstetrical services except for willful or wanton misconduct. A volunteer of a charitable organization is immune from liability for civil damages, if the volunteer is an agent of the charitable organization, or if the volunteer performs services that are not supervisory in nature and are not part of any duties that the volunteer may have as an officer, director, or trustee of the charitable organization, unless the volunteer's act is intentional, willful, wanton, or malicious. Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 41.485
New Hampshire	No provisions for volunteer or retired.	A volunteer in a non-profit organization is immune from civil liability as long as the volunteer is documented by the organization. Exception for wanton misconduct. Additionally, New Hampshire grants certain retired physicians immunity from civil liability for volunteer health education services. NH Rev. Stat. Ann. § 508:17
New Jersey	No provisions for volunteer or retired.	Volunteer health care providers are not personally liable for damages caused except if there is gross negligence or wanton misconduct. N.J. Stat. Ann. § 2A:53A-7-7.1
New Mexico	No provisions for volunteer or retired.	Lack of statutes for charitable immunity. Grants immunity only to public employees including physicians, psychologists or dentists providing services to the corrections dept and children, youth and families dept. Only mention of immunity for directors of a charitable organization. NM Stat. Ann. § 41-4-1
New York	No provisions for volunteer or retired.	No statutes for volunteers of a non-profit or volunteer organization.
North Carolina	Limited Volunteer License to serve indigent. Reduced fee. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-12	Volunteers for charitable organizations are not liable for loss or damages or death except in cases of willful misconduct and wanton negligence.



		N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-21.16 A health care provider who renders services at a free clinic is not liable in a personal injury civil action, except of willful or wanton misconduct. N.D. Cent. Code § 32.03.1-02.2
North Dakota	No provisions for volunteer or retired.	
Ohio	Volunteer certificate for those who are retired and have practiced for at least 10 years. No fee. Some restrictions on services e.g. cannot deliver babies, perform surgery. Valid for 3 years. Ohio Rev. Code § 4715.42	Ohio provides physicians, retired physicians, other health care professionals, and shelters or health care facilities with qualified immunities from civil liability for providing free diagnoses, care, and treatment to indigent or uninsured patients at certain facilities. Patients must receive prior notice of limited liability. Ohio Rev. Code § 2305.234
Oklahoma	Special Volunteer Medical license for retired physicians who wish to donate their expertise exclusively to the medical care and treatment of indigent persons. Physician must have been previously issued a medical license in any State. Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 59, § 493	A volunteer of a charitable or non-profit organization is not liable but in cases of willful misconduct, however, the organization is liable. Oklahoma enacted a provision which relieves volunteers of liability for punitive damages when providing services to nonprofit organizations unless those volunteers are currently offering the same service for profit. Okla. Stat. Ann. tit. 51, § 152
Oregon	Physician may apply for a license to volunteer at a health clinic operated by a charitable health organization. Must first have active full license. Or. Rev. Stat. § 677.120	A physician who volunteers services to a charitable organization is not liable for damages with the exception of gross negligence. Or. Rev. Stat. § 30.792
Pennsylvania	Volunteer license for retired physicians. No liability insurance requirement. Can be renewed every 2 years. Requires verification from the director of the approved clinic that the physician has been authorized to provide volunteer services. Pa. Stat. Ann. tit. 35, § 449.43	A physician who holds a volunteer license under the volunteer health services act (retired physician) is not liable for damages with the exception of sub-standard care. This immunity is valid only if such a statement of immunity is posted in a conspicuous place in the clinic. This immunity does not apply to institutional healthcare organizations who hold vicarious liability for the volunteer license holder. Pa. Stat. Ann. tit. 35, § 449.47
Rhode Island	No provisions for volunteer or retired.	A person who volunteers without compensation in a non-profit or charitable organization is not liable with the exception of negligence. R.I. Gen. Laws § 7-6-9
South Carolina	Volunteer limited license for practice in underserved areas. Renewable annually. No fee. Must practice under a supervisory physician. S.C. Code Ann. § 40-33-20 A volunteer chiropractor can be issued a special volunteer license who devote their expertise exclusively to providing	South Carolina law provides that no licensed health care provider, who provides voluntary medical services without compensation, is liable for any civil damages arising out of acts or omissions resulting from the services rendered, unless due to gross negligence or willful misconduct. Immunity extends only if the agreement to provide voluntary, uncompensated services is made before the



	<p>chiropractic care to the needy and indigent. S.C. Code Ann. § 40-9-85</p> <hr/> <p>A dentist or dental hygienist may be issued a special volunteer license who has a corresponding license in another State as a licensee in good standing and at least five years of clinical practice. They may not receive remuneration directly or indirectly and care must only be provided to the needy and indigent. S.C. Code Ann. § 40-15-177</p>	<p>rendering of services by the provider. S.C. Code Ann. § 38-79-30</p>
South Dakota	No provisions for volunteer or retired.	<p>South Dakota provides immunity from civil liability for health care professionals volunteering health care services at free clinics. The immunity extends to damages or injuries arising from care provided in good faith and within the scope of the provider's official function. Immunity does not apply to gross negligence and willful misconduct. S.D. Codified Laws § 47-23-28 to 32</p>
Tennessee	<p>Volunteer license is available for those who practice in a not-for-profit clinic. No fee. No additional license or certificate is necessary for the voluntary provision of health care services by any person who is a licensed health care provider or Lawfully practices under an exception to the licensure or certification requirements of any state, provided that, the person does not and will not regularly practice in Tennessee. Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-6-704</p> <hr/> <p>A special volunteer license is a license awarded to a medical practitioner whose sole practice is rendering professional services without remuneration in a free health clinic. The practitioner must have been previously issued a license to practice in Tennessee or another State and never been subject to disciplinary action. No fee is to be charged. A free health clinic means a health care facility operated by a nonprofit private entity that does not receive payment for its services and does not impose any charges on the individuals to whom services are rendered. Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-1-201</p>	<p>Liability insurance companies for healthcare providers may not exclude those who volunteer their services. No specific language for non-profit or charitable volunteer immunity, only directors. Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-6-707</p> <hr/> <p>A government entity may elect to insure or indemnify volunteers for claims arising under state or federal law for which the governmental entity is immune and when the volunteer donates their time at the request of the governmental entity. Tenn. Code. Ann. § 29-20-310</p>
Texas	Voluntary Charity Care license – must sign affidavit that care will be given for	The Act provides physician volunteers immunity for performing non-emergency care



	<p>free. Renewable annually, no fee. No restrictions of practice. Tex. Occ. Code § 112.05</p>	<p>for certain charitable organizations. volunteer is a person rendering services for a charitable organization who does not receive compensation in excess of reimbursement for expenses incurred. This includes a person serving as a director, officer, trustee, or direct service volunteer, including a volunteer health care provider. A volunteer health care provider is an individual who voluntarily provides health care services without compensation or expectation of compensation and who meets one of the ten types of health care providers included in the law. The first option is that the volunteer health care provider is an individual licensed to practice medicine under the Medical Practice Act. A second alternative is that the volunteer health care provider is a retired physician who is eligible to provide health care services, including a retired physician who is licensed but exempt from paying the required annual registration fee. Patients must received prior notice of limited liability. Tex. Occ. Code § 84.004</p>
Utah	No provisions for volunteer or retired.	<p>A health care provider who volunteers services at a health care facility and a facility that sponsors uncompensated health treatment is not liable in a malpractice suit. Ut. Code Ann. § 58-13-3</p>
Vermont	No provisions for volunteer or retired.	No statutes for volunteers of a non-profit or volunteer organization.
Virginia	<p>Restricted volunteer license for certain dentists who held an unrestricted license in Virginia or another State as a licensee in good standing at the time the license expired and is volunteering for a public health or community free clinic that provides dental services to populations of underserved people. Va. Code Ann. § 54.1-2712.1</p>	<p>Virginia law grants immunity from liability to health care providers who provide health care services to patients of a clinic which is organized for the delivery of health care services without charge and allows such providers, hospitals, and clinics to charge a reasonable minimum fee and still be afforded immunity, except for gross negligence. Va. Code Ann. § 32.1-127.3</p>
Washington	<p>Retired Active status license. Can be used for uncompensated practice of up to 90 days per year. Reduced fee, 2 year license. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 18.130.250</p>	<p>Limited liability for physicians in certain settings; charitable immunity exists for retired physicians. Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 43.70.460-.470</p>
West Virginia	<p>A volunteer license to work in a volunteer clinic can be applied for if the physician holds an active license. No fee. Renewable annually. W. Va. Code § 30-3-10(a)</p>	<p>A retired physician with a volunteer license who renders service to needy people is immune from civil liability. Exception for gross negligence. W. Va. Code § 30-14-12(b)</p>
Wisconsin	<p>No provisions for retired or volunteer. If practice is less than 240 hours/year, does not have to pay into Patient's Compensation Fund. Wis. Stat. Ann. § 655.002</p>	<p>Volunteers of non-profit corporations are not liable, no specific mention of physicians other than in emergency and athletic circumstances. Wis. Stat. Ann. § 893.82</p>



<p>Wyoming</p>	<p>New retired volunteer license statute effective 7/1/03. Must show proof of license in good standing immediately prior to retirement in any jurisdiction for minimum of 10 years. No fee, but must sign affidavit that they are not being compensated each year. Renewable annually. Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 33-26-601</p>	<p>Non-profit is liable for negligence of its volunteers. The volunteer is not individually liable unless gross misconduct or negligence. No specific mention of volunteer healthcare providers. Wyo. Stat. Ann. tit. 17, ch. 19</p> <hr/> <p>A volunteer is immune from liability for an action that arises from an act or omission at a non-profit healthcare facility to a low income, uninsured person, unless the act or omission constitutes willful or wanton misconduct. To qualify for immunity the volunteer must inform the person either personally or in writing and obtain written consent and a written waiver, signed by the person. Civil immunity will not apply if at the time of the injury, death, or loss to person or property, the volunteer health care professional was involved in performing an operation or delivering a baby, unless the operation or delivery of a baby was necessary to preserve the life of a person in a medical emergency. Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 1-1-129</p>
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