

Good Samaritan Laws

On October 1, 1996, President William Jefferson Clinton signed the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act to encourage the donation of food and grocery products to nonprofit organizations for distribution to needy individuals. The law makes it easier to donate food—here's how:

- It protects donors from liability when donating to a nonprofit organization.
- It protects donors from civil and criminal liability should the product donated in good faith later cause harm to the needy recipient.
- It standardizes donor liability exposure.
- Donors and their legal counsel no longer have to investigate liability laws in 50 states.
- It sets a liability floor of "gross negligence" or intentional misconduct for persons who donate grocery products.
- Congress recognized that the provision of food close to recommended date of sale is, in and of itself, not grounds of finding gross negligence. For example, cereal can be donated if it is marked close to code date for retail sale.

Your donation of food helps low-income families and others in need have access to the vital nutrition they need!

Thank you!