

The Good News About Good Sam

The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act was signed into law on October 1, 1996, to encourage donation of food and grocery products to non-profit organizations for distribution to individuals in need.

This law makes it easier for you to donate. Here's how:

- It protects you from liability when you donate to a non-profit organization.
- It protects you from civil and criminal liability should the product donated in good faith later cause harm to the recipient in need.
- It standardizes donor liability exposure. You or your 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. According to the new law, gross negligence is defined as "voluntary and conscious conduct by a person with knowledge (at the time of conduct) that the conduct is likely to be harmful to the health or well-being of another person."
- Congress recognized that the provision of food close to the date of recommended retail sale is, in and of itself, not grounds for finding gross negligence. For example, you can donate cereal marked close to code date for retail sale.

Second Harvest continues to meet or exceed the same federal food-handling and safety regulations that govern the food and grocery industry. Contact Second Harvest Food Bank of Lehigh Valley and Northeast Pennsylvania at (610) 434-0875 for local pick-up or call the Feeding America national office at 1-800-771-2303 to have your donation picked up from any plant, warehouse, or customer location in the U.S.

For the complete text of the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act, visit the Feeding America web site at www.feedingamerica.org.