

# The Chicago Dental Society Foundation Clinic LLC

## Good Samaritan Act

The Chicago Dental Society Foundation Clinic LLC requires that every practicing dentist and hygienist to be in possession of an active Illinois license. A current copy of the license will be retained by the Clinic director and posted in a visible area at the time of treatment, as required by law.

The Chicago Dental Society Foundation Clinic is a free, non for profit Clinic and its professional volunteers are covered under the ***State of Illinois's Good Samaritan Act.(745 ILCS 49, Section 20)***, which specifically grants civil immunities for practioners volunteering in free dental clinics:

(745 ILCS 49/seq.) Good Samaritan Act.

(745 ILCS 49/2) Sec. 2. Legislative purpose. The General Assembly has established numerous protections for the generous and compassionate acts of its citizens who volunteer their time and talents to help others. These protections or good Samaritan provisions have been codified in many Acts of the Illinois Compiled Statutes. This Act recodifies existing good Samaritan provisions. Further, without limitation the provisions of this Act shall be liberally construed to encourage persons to volunteer their time and talents.

(745 ILCS 49/20)

Sec. 20. Free dental clinic; exemption from civil liability for services performed without compensation. Any person licensed under the Illinois Dental Practice Act to practice dentistry or to practice as a dental hygienist who, in good faith, provides dental treatment, dental services, diagnoses, or advice as part of the services of an established free dental clinic providing care to medically indigent patients which is limited to care which does not require the services of a licensed hospital or ambulatory surgical treatment center, and who receives no fee or compensation from that source shall not, as a result of any acts or omissions, except for willful or wanton misconduct on the part of the licensee, in providing dental treatment, dental services, diagnoses or advice, be liable for civil damages. For purposes of this Section, a "free dental clinic" is an organized program providing, without charge, dental care to individuals unable to pay for their care. For purposes of this Section, an "organized program" is a program sponsored by a community, public health, charitable, voluntary, or organized dental organization. Free dental services provided under this Section may be provided at a clinic or private dental office. A free dental clinic may receive reimbursement from the Department of Healthcare and Family Services or may receive partial reimbursement from a patient based upon ability to pay, provided any such reimbursements shall be used only to pay overhead expenses of operating the free dental clinic and may not be used, in whole or in part, to provide a fee, reimbursement, or other compensation to any person licensed under the Illinois Dental Practice Act who is receiving an exemption under this Section or to any entity that the person owns or controls or in which the person has an ownership interest or from which the person receives a fee, reimbursement, or compensation of any kind. Dental care shall not include the use of general anesthesia or require an overnight stay in a health care facility.

The provisions of this Section shall not apply in any case unless the free dental clinic has posted in a conspicuous place on its premises an explanation of the immunity from civil liability provided in this Section.