

## Disclaimer

We provide support and information to individuals in good faith and to the best of our ability, in a fiduciary and community-based capacity as a nonprofit organization. Our efforts are made without personal or financial gain. However, we are *not attorneys* and do *not provide legal advice*. You are strongly encouraged to consult with a qualified attorney to ensure your rights and interests are fully protected. While we strive to offer helpful guidance, we cannot guarantee specific outcomes even with the best of intentions.

## California Corporations Code § 5239, California Government Code § 820.9, Federal Volunteer Protection Act (VPA) of 1997

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### As for legal protections in California:

There **are some protections** at the **state and federal level** for nonprofit organizations and volunteers when acting in **good faith** and **without gross negligence or willful misconduct**, including:

#### ◆ California Corporations Code § 5239

Protects **volunteer directors or officers** of a nonprofit public benefit corporation from personal liability **if they act in good faith, in the best interests of the organization, and without self-dealing**.

#### ◆ California Government Code § 820.9

Limits liability for officers/employees of public entities acting within the scope of their duties, and often extends similar protections to volunteers of certain nonprofits.

#### ◆ Federal Volunteer Protection Act (VPA) of 1997

This law limits liability for **volunteers** (including directors, officers, and trustees) of **501(c)(3)** nonprofits who are acting:

- Within the scope of their responsibilities,
- In good faith,
- Without gross negligence or willful misconduct.

However, **these laws do not protect against:**

- Criminal acts,
- Gross negligence,

- Operating outside your defined duties or authority,
  - Misrepresenting yourself as an attorney or licensed professional when you are not.
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