COUNTRY GUIDE



AMERICAS

Argentina.

Argentina's Código Penal punishes failing to help a lost or abandoned child under ten, or an injured, disabled or endangered person, with a fine. Ley 25.855 on social volunteering recognizes and promotes volunteering with nonprofit organizations and directs the national executive to support it.

DUTY TO HELP A STRANGER
Limited

PROTECTION FOR HELPERS
None found

GIVING AND SERVICE
4 programs and laws

Is there a legal duty to help a stranger?

LIMITED

Article 108 of the Código Penal de la Nación imposes a fine on anyone who, finding a minor under ten, or an injured, disabled or endangered person lost or abandoned, fails to give necessary help when able to do so without personal risk, or fails to notify the authority immediately. The amount in the text (750 to 12,500 pesos) is an old figure that the Infoleg note says was updated in 1993.

Código Penal de la Nación Argentina, Ley 11.179 (T.O. 1984 actualizado) (Información Legislativa y Documental (Infoleg), Ministerio de Economía (Argentina))

Are people who help protected?

NONE FOUND

No national statute specifically protecting people who help a stranger in good faith was found in the sources reviewed. Ley 25.855 expressly leaves out isolated, sporadic voluntary acts done for family, friendship or good-neighbor reasons, so it does not serve that purpose.

Ley 25.855 Voluntariado Social (Gobierno de la República Argentina)

How the government promotes giving and service

Ley 25.855, Voluntariado Social: purpose

Article 1 states that the law promotes social volunteering as 'an instrument of the solidary participation of citizens' in nonprofit activity and regulates relations between volunteers and the organizations they serve. Article 3 defines volunteers as people who act freely and without pay on tasks of general interest.

GOBIERNO DE LA REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA

Volunteer rights under Ley 25.855

Article 6 gives volunteers rights including training, identification, a certificate of activities and training received, and reimbursement of expenses when the organization has expressly agreed to it in advance.

GOBIERNO DE LA REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA

Measures of promotion (Ley 25.855, arts. 12 to 14)

The national executive is to promote technical-assistance and training programs and run awareness and recognition campaigns through state media and education. Duly accredited volunteer activity is to count as a mandatory merit factor in competitions for vacancies in the three branches of the State.

GOBIERNO DE LA REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA

Decreto 750/2010, regulation of Ley 25.855

The decree approving the regulation states that social volunteering is linked to community participation and calls on public authorities to adopt measures promoting it.

GOBIERNO DE LA REPÚBLICA ARGENTINA

Ways to give and volunteer

Giving in Argentina runs through civil associations and foundations, and many local food and social services are run by religious groups, which this list does not recommend. Check that a group is a legally registered entity before you give money.

Check a charity before you give

The registry body that oversees civil associations and foundations based in the City of Buenos Aires; groups elsewhere are registered with their provincial authority, and there is no single national charity search.

Inspección General de Justicia (IGJ)

Give your time

Cruz Roja Argentina, Voluntariado
The national Red Cross society's page for joining its volunteers in first aid, disaster response and community work.

United Nations Volunteers (UNV)
The UN's volunteer programme, with an online portal for international and online volunteer assignments.

Give money, blood or a donation

INCUCAI

The national organ, tissue and cell donation and transplant agency, where you can learn how to register your wish to donate.

Red Argentina de Bancos de Alimentos
A network of food banks that collect surplus food and pass it to community kitchens and charities.

Cruz Roja Argentina
The national Red Cross society, which takes donations for emergency response and runs first aid and blood programs.

In an emergency or a crisis

Find A Helpline: crisis and emotional support lines in this country
A directory of free crisis and emotional support lines, run by ThroughLine. No single national line could be confirmed for this guide, so check the line you choose before you rely on it.

Línea 144
The national helpline page for people facing gender-based violence, with a free line open at all hours.

Centro de Asistencia al Suicida
A long-running nonprofit crisis line for people in emotional distress or at risk of suicide.

Before you act

- Fake fundraising appeals spread on social media and messaging apps after floods and other disasters, so give through a named organization you can look up, not a personal account or link forwarded to you.
- Ask any local group for its legal name and registration number and confirm it with the IGJ or the provincial registry before giving money.
- Argentina has no special ban on foreign donors or volunteers, but a visitor doing regular unpaid work should ask the host group about visa rules first.

This list does not cover provincial and municipal volunteer programs, or the many small neighborhood groups that are not listed in a central registry. Checked 2026-10-28. Listing an organization is not an endorsement, and none of them has endorsed this site. Some official sites block automatic checks, so a link may need a second try.

One thing worth knowing

Ley 25.855 makes accredited volunteer work a mandatory merit factor in competitions for public-sector vacancies.

What this does not mean

Translations are this guide's own. No tax rule for donations or any patronage law was verified for Argentina, so none is described. Article 108 is a minor-penalty offense, and how it is applied in practice was not reviewed. This is a plain-language summary of public sources, not legal advice, and it does not rank countries. No government named here has endorsed this site. Not reviewed by a lawyer. Statutes were read in public sources and may have changed. Last checked October 26, 2026.

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