THIS IS DISCLOSURE *Treat each other like humans.*

COUNTRY GUIDE



ASIA

China.

The Civil Code of the People's Republic of China (adopted 2020, in force January 1, 2021) includes a provision on emergency aid under which an aider who causes harm while voluntarily giving aid does not bear civil liability. The Charity Law (2016, amended 2023) and the State Council's Regulation of Volunteer Service (2017) set rules for and encourage charitable and volunteer activity, and national campaigns such as learning from Lei Feng are policy rather than law.

DUTY TO HELP A STRANGER
No general duty found

PROTECTION FOR HELPERS
Yes

GIVING AND SERVICE
4 programs and laws

Is there a legal duty to help a stranger?

NO GENERAL DUTY FOUND

No general legal duty to help a stranger in danger was found in the Civil Code text reviewed. Article 184 addresses liability of those who do help, and Article 121 gives a person who voluntarily manages another's affairs to avoid harm the right to request repayment of necessary expenses. This guide did not review criminal or administrative law, so it does not claim no duty exists anywhere.

Civil Code of the People's Republic of China (English translation) (ChinaLawTranslate (private English translation, not an official government text))

Are people who help protected?

YES

Civil Code Article 184 provides that where voluntarily carrying out emergency assistance causes harm to the person receiving assistance, the aider does not bear civil liability. By its words it addresses civil liability only, and it is silent on criminal liability. Article 183 separately addresses compensation when someone is harmed while protecting another's civil rights.

Civil Code of the People's Republic of China (English translation), Articles 121, 183, 184 (ChinaLawTranslate (private English translation, not an official government text))

How the government promotes giving and service

Charity Law (2016, amended 2023)

The 2016 text states its aim as promoting a culture of charity and protecting donors and volunteers, provides for tax benefits for charitable donations (Article 80), and sets up a commendation system for outstanding contributions (Article 91). The NPC English site reports an amendment adopted in December 2023 and effective September 5, 2024, so article numbers and wording may have changed.

CHINALAWTRANSLATE (PRIVATE ENGLISH TRANSLATION, NOT AN OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT TEXT)

China Charity Day

Article 7 of the 2016 Charity Law text designates September 5 of each year as China Charity Day.

CHINALAWTRANSLATE (PRIVATE ENGLISH TRANSLATION, NOT AN OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT TEXT)

Regulation of Volunteer Service (State Council Order No. 685, 2017)

Governments at the county level or above are to arrange funding for volunteer service, and volunteer organizations must buy accidental injury insurance for volunteers before activities where injury might occur. The regulation is an administrative regulation, not a statute of the National People's Congress.

CHINALAWTRANSLATE (PRIVATE ENGLISH TRANSLATION, NOT AN OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT TEXT)

Learn from Lei Feng (policy campaign, not law)
In February 2023 President Xi Jinping called for carrying forward the Lei Feng spirit, according to China Daily; March 5 is traditionally observed as a day of volunteer acts. This guide did not find a statute creating Lei Feng Day.
CHINA DAILY (HONG KONG EDITION), STATE-OWNED MEDIA

Ways to give and volunteer

In China, charity and volunteering run mainly through registered, government-supervised bodies such as the Red Cross Society of China, state-recognized foundations and local volunteer stations. Start with an official channel; independent or unregistered fundraising can be illegal.

Give your time

Red Cross Society of China
The national Red Cross society, which accepts registered volunteers through its local branches (Chinese-language site).

Shanghai government guide to volunteering in China
An English guide from the Shanghai government on how students and residents find legitimate volunteer groups through universities and community offices.

UN Volunteers (UNV)
The United Nations volunteer program, which lists international and national volunteer assignments and country information.

Give money, blood or a donation

China Foundation for Rural Development (中国乡村发展基金会)
A long-established national foundation, formerly the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation, working on rural development.

In an emergency or a crisis

12356 National Psychological Assistance Hotline: 12356
The national unified psychological assistance hotline in mainland China, in Mandarin; local lines are routed to this one number.

Before you act

- Public fundraising is regulated: only qualified charities may solicit donations publicly, and foreign NGOs need to operate through registered channels, so do not start your own collection or donate to unregistered groups.
- If you are a foreign resident or visitor, volunteer through a university, a community office or a registered organization and ask your host about visa or permit rules before starting.
- Be wary of anyone who asks for fees, personal documents or transfers to a personal account.

This list covers only official and widely recognized channels and does not cover local groups, crowdfunding apps or religious organizations. 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

China's Civil Code puts an emergency-aid liability exemption in the national civil code itself (Article 184), next to a rule letting voluntary helpers recover necessary expenses (Article 121).

What this does not mean

The English texts cited are private translations, not official English versions; the Chinese text controls. The Charity Law translation shown is the 2016 version and the law was amended in 2023. Policy campaigns and official media statements are not law, and nothing here speaks to how the provisions are applied in practice. 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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