COUNTRY GUIDE



EUROPE

Russia.

The Criminal Code of the Russian Federation contains a narrow offense of leaving a helpless person in danger (art. 125). Federal Law No. 135-FZ of August 11, 1995, now titled "On Charitable Activities and Volunteering", covers both charity and volunteering and gives volunteers listed rights, including support such as insurance in cases the law provides. Federal bodies are tasked with state programs and a unified information system for volunteering, and the DOBRO.RF platform is presented as that system.

DUTY TO HELP A STRANGER
Limited

PROTECTION FOR HELPERS
Limited

GIVING AND SERVICE
5 programs and laws

Is there a legal duty to help a stranger?

LIMITED

Article 125 of the Criminal Code punishes knowingly leaving without help a person who is in a condition dangerous to life or health and cannot protect themselves because of minor age, old age, illness or helplessness. The text applies only where the offender could have helped and either was obliged to care for the person or put the person in danger, so it is not a general duty to assist any stranger (reading of the Russian text as shown on the source page; no official English translation was used).

Статья 125. Оставление в опасности (УК РФ, ред. от 04.08.2026) (ConsultantPlus (non-commercial online version of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation))

Are people who help protected?

LIMITED

No statute giving a helper general immunity for good-faith aid to a stranger was found. Article 17.1 of Federal Law No. 135-FZ, as added by Federal Law No. 15-FZ of February 5, 2018, lists rights of volunteers, including support in cases provided by law, and provides for insurance of volunteers' life or health in specified circumstances; this concerns organized volunteering, not spontaneous aid.

Федеральный закон от 05.02.2018 N 15-ФЗ (ред. от 21.12.2021) О внесении изменений в отдельные законодательные акты по вопросам добровольчества (волонтерства) (rulaws.ru (legal text aggregator; amending law text))

How the government promotes giving and service

Federal Law No. 135-FZ, "On Charitable Activities and Volunteering"

The consolidated law's table of contents shows chapters on charitable and volunteer activity, including article 17.1 (rights and duties of a volunteer), 17.2 (legal conditions for organizers of volunteering) and 17.3 (powers of public authorities in volunteering).

ZAKONRF.INFO (LEGAL TEXT AGGREGATOR)

State powers in volunteering (art. 17.3)

The text assigns the Government and federal executive bodies tasks such as developing and carrying out state programs that include measures to support volunteering and taking part in forming a unified information system for developing volunteering.

RULAWS.RU (AMENDING LAW TEXT)

DOBRO.RF volunteer platform

The site presents itself as a platform where people can find volunteer events and organizations; a 2024-2025 government action plan names DOBRO.RF as the

unified information system for volunteering and plans to link it to the "Work in Russia" platform so volunteer experience can appear in resumes.

DOBRO.RF

2024-2025 action plan for the Concept for Promoting Volunteering

A text of the plan assigns tasks to Rosmolodezh (the federal youth agency), Rostrud and the Association of Volunteer Centers, including the DOBRO.RF link to the employment platform.

RULAWS.RU (LEGAL TEXT AGGREGATOR)

Year of the Volunteer, 2018

A news agency report states that the President signed a decree declaring 2018 the Year of the Volunteer and ordered the Government to form an organizing committee and approve a plan of events.

RAPSI (RUSSIAN LEGAL NEWS AGENCY)

Ways to give and volunteer

Charity in Russia is shaped by laws on foreign agents and undesirable organizations, and many independent groups have been closed or restricted. The one thing to know first: stick to official channels and verify any group before giving or volunteering.

Check a charity before you give

The tax authority keeps the state register of legal entities and offers a counterparty check, which shows whether a nonprofit is officially registered; Russia has no single charity rating site.

Federal Tax Service (FNS)

Give your time

Dobro.rf (Dobro.ru)

The national state-backed volunteering platform lists volunteer projects and organizations.

Rossiyskiy Krasny Krest (Russian Red Cross)
The national Red Cross society recruits volunteers for social care, first aid and emergencies.

Give money, blood or a donation

Rossiyskiy Krasny Krest (Russian Red Cross)
The national Red Cross society accepts donations for relief and social 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.

Ministry of Emergency Situations (MChS)
The state emergency agency, which also staffs the national emergency number 112.

Before you act

- Russian law restricts foreign-funded groups, and laws on foreign agents and undesirable organizations carry real legal risks, so check them before donating to or working with any group, especially from abroad. Use only official, registered channels and be wary of cash collection and anonymous social media appeals. Visitors and foreign residents should confirm what volunteering their visa status allows.

This list covers only official channels and does not cover independent groups or any activity that may be restricted. 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

Russia folded volunteering into its 1995 charity law in 2018, so one statute now governs both and defines volunteer rights and the roles of authorities.

What this does not mean

This guide describes statutes and programs as published and does not assess how they are applied. Translations from Russian are by this guide; the cited legal texts are from non-governmental aggregators of official texts, so the official publication (pravo.gov.ru) should be checked for current wording. 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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