COUNTRY GUIDE



ASIA

Thailand.

Section 374 of Thailand's Penal Code makes it an offense to see another person in danger of losing their life and fail to give necessary help that could be given without risk. A 2025 journal article reports that the Emergency Medical Act B.E. 2551 (2008) gives qualified immunity to those who assist in emergencies. The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security marks International Volunteer Day, and a UN release cites more than 18 million formal and informal volunteers as of September 30, 2025.

DUTY TO HELP A STRANGER
Yes

PROTECTION FOR HELPERS
Limited

GIVING AND SERVICE
3 programs and laws

Is there a legal duty to help a stranger?

YES

Section 374, in the unofficial ThaiLawOnline translation, applies to anyone who sees another in danger of losing their life, could help without risk to themselves or a third person, and fails to give necessary help; the penalty is up to one month in prison or a fine of up to 10,000 baht, or both. The site's commentary says calling emergency services may satisfy it, and that the duty arises only where helping is safe.

Penal Code Section 374: Failing to help a person in danger of death (ThaiLawOnline (unofficial translation with Thai original))

Are people who help protected?

LIMITED

A 2025 journal article says the Emergency Medical Act B.E. 2551 (2008) grants immunity from criminal and civil liability for emergency care given in good faith without intent or gross negligence, and that it covers medical personnel and volunteers. The statute's own section text was not found, so scope and wording are unverified and the article centers on health workers.

Legal Protection of Health Workers in Emergency Medical Procedures: An Analysis of Legal Certainty in Indonesia and Thailand (Jurnal Ius Constituendum (Universitas Semarang))

How the government promotes giving and service

International Volunteer Day 2025 and International Volunteer Year 2026

The Ministry of Social Development and Human Security, with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and UN agencies, held Thailand's International Volunteer Day event on November 29, 2025 as the national kick-off of the International Volunteer Year for Sustainable Development 2026. A government speaker cited more than 18 million formal and informal volunteers as of September 30, 2025.

UNITED NATIONS IN THAILAND (PRESS RELEASE)

'A Ripple of Kindness' relief collection

At the same event, volunteers collected and delivered relief items for flood-affected communities in Hat Yai District, Songkhla Province, to a university volunteer center.

UNITED NATIONS IN THAILAND (PRESS RELEASE)

Social Welfare Promotion Act B.E. 2546 (2003), as listed by the UN Volunteers portal

The UNV portal lists this Act, its 2007 amendment and a 2012 Cabinet resolution as Thailand's legislation relevant to volunteering. The Act's text was not fetched, so

its volunteer provisions are not described here.

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTEERS

Ways to give and volunteer

Much giving in Thailand runs through temples, royal-patronage foundations and the Thai Red Cross Society, and most official sites are in Thai first. Start with the Thai Red Cross, which has English pages for blood, organ and eye donation.

Check a charity before you give

Thailand has no single public charity register that we could verify, so the closest official body is the Revenue Department, which runs the e-Donation system for tax-deductible gifts to approved recipients; ask any group whether it can receive donations that way.

Revenue Department (e-Donation system)

Give your time

Thai Red Cross Society (English site)
The national Red Cross society, with English pages on its blood, organ and relief work; ask its branches about volunteering.

Volunteer Spirit network (เครือข่ายจิตอาสา)
A Thai-language network that lists volunteer activities and articles for people who want to help.

Foundation for Volunteers for Society (มูลนิธิอาสาสมัครเพื่อสังคม)
A long-running Thai foundation focused on promoting volunteer work; the site is in Thai.

Give money, blood or a donation

National Blood Centre, Thai Red Cross
English pages on who can donate blood, where, and how to book.

Thai Red Cross organ and eye donation
Explains how to register to donate organs and eyes online through the Red Cross.

Thai Red Cross donations
The Red Cross page for giving money or supplies, in Thai.

In an emergency or a crisis

Department of Mental Health
The government mental health agency, which runs the national mental health hotline (1323).

Tourist Police
The police unit for visitors, reachable on 1155.

Before you act

- Thai law requires fundraising and foundations to follow registration and tax rules, so ask for a receipt and the foundation's registration details before giving. Be wary of street collectors, children asked to beg for a group, and orphanage visits, which can harm children and are often run for profit. Foreign visitors should check visa and work-permit rules before any volunteering, since unpaid work can still count as work.

This list does not cover local temples, small community groups or every Thai foundation. 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

Thailand's rule treats calling for help as a way to meet the duty, per the ThaiLawOnline commentary, and the Penal Code offense is a minor one with a short one-year limit on prosecution.

What this does not mean

The Section 374 English is an unofficial law-firm translation, and krisdika.go.th (the official source) could not be reached. The Emergency Medical Act's text, the Civil and Commercial Code and any 'Volunteer Spirit' program were not verified from primary sources and are not asserted. Not legal advice. 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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