

§816. Immunity

1. For private institutions. Any private institution, its employees or agents are immune from civil liability to the extent provided in Title 14, chapter 741, as if that institution were a state agency and its employees and agents were state employees, for any acts taken to provide for the confinement or restraint of a person committed pursuant to this chapter or for participating in reporting under this chapter, or for engaging in any prescribed care within the meaning of this chapter in support of the State's response to a declared extreme public health emergency in accordance with the provisions of this chapter and Title 37-B, chapter 13, subchapter 2.

[PL 2003, c. 438, §1 (AMD).]

1-A. Health care workforce. A private institution is immune from civil penalties and liability for any actions arising from allegations of inadequate investigation prior to that institution's hiring or engagement of a licensed health care worker, including but not limited to allegations of negligent hiring, credentialing or privileging, for services provided within the scope of that health care worker's licensure in response to an extreme public health emergency as defined in section 801, subsection 4-A or a disaster as defined in Title 37-B, section 703, subsection 2 as long as the private institution hires or engages the services of the licensed health care worker in accordance with this subsection. When hiring or engaging the services of a health care worker:

A. The private institution shall first make a reasonable attempt to contact the appropriate occupational or professional licensing board within or affiliated with the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation for any available information about that health care worker; and [PL 2005, c. 630, §1 (NEW).]

B. A private institution may rely on:

(1) Information available from the occupational and professional licensing boards within or affiliated with the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation regarding appropriate screening of the worker, such as background investigation, primary source verification or credentialing;

(2) The representation of a volunteer health care worker registry that is operated or certified in accordance with federal or state requirements regarding appropriate screening of the worker that is registered on that registry, such as background investigation, primary source verification or credentialing;

(3) The representation of the employing or privileging entity regarding appropriate screening of the worker that, at the time of hiring or engagement, is employed or privileged by any entity in any state, such as background investigation, primary source verification, credentialing or privileging; or

(4) The representation of a retired or unemployed worker's most recent employer or privileging entity if that employment or privileging occurred within the previous 24 months. [PL 2005, c. 630, §1 (NEW).]

A private institution that complies with this subsection may hire or engage the services of a licensed health care worker and is deemed in compliance with all state licensing standards. The private institution shall initiate the standard preemployment screening process within 48 hours of the official termination of the extreme public health emergency as defined in section 801, subsection 4-A or disaster as defined in Title 37-B, section 703, subsection 2.

[PL 2005, c. 630, §1 (NEW).]

2. Reporting and proceedings. Any person participating in reporting under this chapter or participating in a related communicable disease investigation or proceeding, including, but not limited to, any person serving on or assisting a multidisciplinary intervention team or other investigating or

treatment team, is immune from civil liability for the act of reporting or participating in the investigation or proceeding in good faith. Good faith does not include instances when a false report is made and the reporting person knows or should know the report is false.

[PL 1989, c. 487, §11 (NEW).]

3. For public institutions or employees. Immunity for public institutions and employees shall be governed by Title 14, chapter 741.

[PL 1989, c. 487, §11 (NEW).]

SECTION HISTORY

PL 1989, c. 487, §11 (NEW). PL 2003, c. 438, §1 (AMD). PL 2005, c. 630, §1 (AMD).

The State of Maine claims a copyright in its codified statutes. If you intend to republish this material, we require that you include the following disclaimer in your publication:

All copyrights and other rights to statutory text are reserved by the State of Maine. The text included in this publication reflects changes made through the First Regular and First Special Session of the 131st Maine Legislature and is current through November 1, 2023. The text is subject to change without notice. It is a version that has not been officially certified by the Secretary of State. Refer to the Maine Revised Statutes Annotated and supplements for certified text.

The Office of the Revisor of Statutes also requests that you send us one copy of any statutory publication you may produce. Our goal is not to restrict publishing activity, but to keep track of who is publishing what, to identify any needless duplication and to preserve the State's copyright rights.

PLEASE NOTE: The Revisor's Office cannot perform research for or provide legal advice or interpretation of Maine law to the public. If you need legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.