

Legislation providing Liability Coverage for Free Clinics of Michigan:

Section 16277 of the Michigan Public Health Code, January 1, 2002, the Michigan Good Samaritan Law provides immunity for volunteer licensed health professionals, including physicians, in free clinics. Also covers specialists who receive referrals to their office from free clinics. The clinic must have patients sign a release.

Federal Tort Claims Act - provides immunity to volunteer physicians. Requires a 27-page credentialing process for each provider. Recommend that free clinics enlist the help of your local hospital's Medical Staff Office in this credentialing process. The free clinic in Cadillac and Joy Southfield Clinic in Detroit participate. See <http://www.bphc.hrsa.gov/freeclinicsftca/application.htm>.

Public Act 24 of 2006 is a new Michigan law specific to retired physicians which provides for them a special free license for volunteering to provide free care to the uninsured. It provides immunity also. Info about obtaining this special volunteer license should become available in the next few months at <http://www.michigan.gov/mdch>.