

Town of Ulysses  
Good Samaritan Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Use Policy

1. Purpose

The Town of Ulysses maintains Automated External Defibrillators (“AEDs”) in certain Town facilities for the sole purpose of making them readily available to the public during medical emergencies involving sudden cardiac arrest. This policy establishes procedures for access, use, and maintenance of AEDs while ensuring compliance with New York State’s Good Samaritan protections.

2. Legal Framework

This policy is grounded in:

- New York Public Health Law § 3000-a, which provides civil immunity to individuals who voluntarily and in good faith render emergency assistance, including the use of an AED, except in cases of gross negligence.
- New York Public Health Law § 3000-b, which governs formal Public Access Defibrillation (PAD) programs. The Town is not establishing a PAD program under § 3000-b and therefore is not subject to collaborative agreement, training, or registration requirements.

3. Policy Statement

AEDs located in Town facilities are provided for Good Samaritan use by members of the public or Town employees who choose to assist voluntarily during a medical emergency. No person is required or expected to use an AED. Any person who chooses to use an AED does so as a Good Samaritan, and not as an agent or responder on behalf of the Town.

4. Availability and Access

- AEDs shall be placed in clearly marked, publicly accessible locations within designated Town buildings.
- AED cabinets shall remain unlocked or otherwise accessible during building operating hours.
- Signage shall identify AED locations and basic steps for use.

5. Voluntary Use

- Any person, trained or untrained, may use an AED in good faith during an emergency involving apparent cardiac arrest.
- Town employees may voluntarily choose to assist but are not required to use an AED as part of their job duties unless separately designated under another policy or certification.

6. Good Samaritan Protection

Individuals who voluntarily use an AED in good faith are protected from civil liability under PHL § 3000-a, except for acts of gross negligence or intentional misconduct. The Town does not assume responsibility for the actions of individuals who choose to render aid.

## 7. Maintenance and Inspection

To ensure AEDs remain functional and available:

- The Town shall assign a department (e.g., Buildings & Grounds, Public Safety, or Clerk's Office) to perform monthly visual inspections of each AED cabinet, battery indicator, and pad expiration date.
- Replacement pads and batteries shall be ordered promptly when expiration or low-power indicators appear.
- After any AED use, the assigned department shall:
  - Remove the unit from service for inspection
  - Replace used pads
  - Verify battery status
  - Document the incident and reset the device

This maintenance is for general readiness only and does not convert the Town's AED availability into a regulated PAD program.

## 8. Training (Optional but Not Required)

The Town may offer voluntary CPR/AED training opportunities to employees or the public. Participation is strictly optional and does not create a duty to respond.

## 9. Incident Documentation

If an AED is used:

- The individual discovering the use or the responding Town employee shall notify the Town Supervisor or designated official as soon as practicable.
- The Town shall maintain a simple incident log for maintenance and record-keeping purposes.

## 10. No Creation of Duty

Nothing in this policy:

- Creates a duty for any person to use an AED
- Creates a Town-operated emergency response program
- Establishes a PAD program under PHL § 3000-b
- Alters the protections afforded under PHL § 3000-a

## 11. Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed periodically to ensure compliance with applicable laws and best practices.