

The Standard of Care

Law

What the reasonable person is expected to do.

How the standard is set.

Factors raising it

Likelihood of harm occurring

Seriousness of potential harm

Special skill professed

Vulnerability of the claimant

Factors lowering it

Cost and difficulty of precautions

Social utility of the activity

Emergency circumstances

Standard practice at the time

Educational reference. Professionals are judged against competent practice in their field, not against the ordinary person.