

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS about the GOOD SAMARITAN LAW

What is the Good Samaritan Law?

The Good Samaritan Law was created to encourage people to call 911 to report an overdose without fear of arrest or other legal consequences. The law empowers you to save someone's life. The overdose victim is also protected.

What should I do if a friend is showing signs of alcohol poisoning or other drug overdose?

If you recognize the signs of alcohol poisoning or other drug overdose, **immediately call for 911 emergency! Be prepared to state your name and the location of the person in distress!** Stay with your friend until help arrives.

The following are signs of life-threatening overdose:

- Person is passed out or semi-conscious and cannot be awakened.
- Person vomits while sleeping or passed out and does not wake up.
- Rate of breathing seems slow or irregular.
- Person has cold, clammy, pale, or bluish color skin.

What should I do after I call for help?

- Stay calm- you have done an important thing calling for help.
- Stay with your friend.
- If you know what substances and how much was ingested let emergency personnel know.

What if I am under-age and under the influence when I call for help?

The law protects from charges and prosecutions for:

- Possessing controlled substances up to and including A2 felony offenses (anything under 8 ounces)
- Possessing alcohol, where underage drinking is involved.
- Possessing marijuana (any quantity)
- Possessing drug paraphernalia
- Sharing drugs.

The law does NOT protect from the following:

- A1 felony possession of a controlled substance (8 ounces or more)
- Sale or intent to sell controlled substances.
- Open warrants for your arrest
- Violation of probation or parole.

Does the Good Samaritan Law apply if I call for myself?

Yes

Resources: <https://alcoholdrugcouncil.org/good-samaritan-law/>
<https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/studentaffairs/scs/samaritan-faq.php>