

# ARE YOU PROTECTED BY THE GOOD SAMARITAN DRUG OVERDOSE ACT?

The *Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act* can protect you and others at the scene from being charged for having or using drugs, if you seek medical help for yourself or for someone else who has overdosed.

## The law **protects** against charges for:

- Having drugs for your own use (“simple possession”)
- Violating any condition of your parole, bail, probation, or conditional sentence (“house arrest”) from a previous **simple possession charge**

## The law **does not protect** against charges for:

- Selling illegal drugs (trafficking): Police may suspect this if you have a large amount of drugs, cash, or items like scales, baggies, and debt lists
- Offences other than simple possession
- Any outstanding arrest warrants
- Violating any condition of your parole, bail, probation, or conditional sentence for **an offence that is not simple possession**



**Police may not always know about the law's protections.**

Find legal help in your community here:  
[hivlegalnetwork.ca/IndigenousCommunities](http://hivlegalnetwork.ca/IndigenousCommunities)



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This is legal information — not legal advice. If you need legal advice, please consult a lawyer about your situation. March 2023.