

# 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.

**New Brunswick:** For legal help, call Legal Aid at 506-633-6030 (Saint John) or 506-444-2777 (Fredericton). Available 8:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (M-F). See [www.legalaid-aidejuridique-nb.ca](http://www.legalaid-aidejuridique-nb.ca) for more local offices or call 506-444-2776.

**Nova Scotia:** For legal help, call 1-800-665-9779 for the Legal Information Society of Nova Scotia’s Lawyer Referral Service, which will refer you to a lawyer offering a 30-minute consultation for \$20.00 plus tax. Available between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

**PEI:** For legal help, call 902-892-0853 for Community Legal Information’s Lawyer Referral Service, which will refer you to a lawyer offering a 45-minute consultation for \$25.00 plus HST. Available from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday to Thursday.



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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.