

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.

For legal help, call 1-800-268-8326 for the Law Society of Ontario’s Lawyer Referral Service, also online at <https://lsrs.iso.ca/lsrs/welcome>. The online request, referral process, and initial consultation (up to 30 minutes) are free.

For urgent legal help, call 416-947-5255 (Toronto area) or 1-855-5255 for the Law Society of Ontario’s Crisis Line. This line is available to those who are unable to access the online service, and is available from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday.

For legal help specifically for the Indigenous community, call 416-408-3967 (Toronto area) or 1-844-633-2886 (toll free) for Aboriginal Legal Services, Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



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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.