

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.

Alberta: For legal help, call 1-800-661-1095 for the Law Society of Alberta's Lawyer Referral Service, which will refer you to a lawyer offering a free 30-minute consultation. Available between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., M-F.

Manitoba: For legal help, call 204-943-2305 or email community@communitylegal.mb.ca for the Community Legal Education Association's Lawyer Referral Program, which will refer you to a lawyer offering a free 30-minute free consultation. Voicemail available between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., M-F.

Saskatchewan: For legal help, call Pro Bono Law Saskatchewan at 1-855-833-7257 for an appointment with a Free Legal Clinic. Available to low-income clients. Clients will receive up to 60 minutes of free legal advice from a volunteer lawyer. Available 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., M-F.



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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.