

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 888-954-9447 for The Barreau de Montréal's Ligne Info-Droit Criminel for a free, short conversation with a lawyer. Available from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., M-F.

For urgent legal help, call 514-954-3444 for The Barreau de Montréal's Emergency Lawyer service, to consult with a criminal lawyer. Available to anyone who is under arrest or is about to be interrogated by police, 24/7.

For legal help on the island of Montreal, call 514-866-2490 or email reference@barreaudemontreal.qc.ca, for Le Barreau du Montréal's Lawyer Referral Service, which will refer clients to a lawyer offering a 60-minute consultation for \$60.

For legal help in or around Longueuil, call 450-468-2609, for Le Barreau du Québec's Lawyer Referral Service, which will refer clients to a lawyer offering a consultation. The first 30 minutes of the consultation are \$50.

For legal help in the Québec City area, call 418-529-0301, ext. 21, for Le Barreau du Québec's Lawyer Referral Service, which will refer clients to a lawyer offering a 60-minute consultation for \$60 plus tax.



Department of Justice
Canada

FUNDING PROVIDED BY

Ministère de la Justice
Canada

Artwork: “Ookpik” by Brian Kowikchuk.

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