

MARYLAND'S GOOD SAMARITAN LAW PROTECTS YOU.



Call 911

if you witness
a drug or
alcohol
overdose.

**YOU *CANNOT* BE ARRESTED,
CHARGED, OR PROSECUTED FOR:**

- Possession of a controlled, dangerous substance
 - Possession or use of drug paraphernalia
 - Providing alcohol to minors

**CALLING 911 *WILL NOT* AFFECT
YOUR PAROLE OR PROBATION STATUS.**

Maryland's law does not protect against arrest for open warrants and crimes not listed above.



For more information about
prevention and treatment, visit
www.MDDestinationRecovery.org





MARYLAND Department of Health

Good Samaritan Law Facts

Maryland's Good Samaritan Law protects people assisting in an emergency overdose situation from arrest, as well as prosecution, for certain crimes.

The purpose of the law is to encourage any person regardless of age, who experiences or observes a medical emergency caused by the ingestion or use of alcohol or other drugs, to seek medical assistance without fear of arrest or prosecution for:

- Possessing or using a controlled dangerous substance
- Possessing or using drug paraphernalia
- Providing alcohol to minors

The Good Samaritan Law applies to any person who seeks, provides, or assists with the provision of medical assistance as the result of a person ingesting or using alcohol or drugs.

It also applies to the victims if the victims receive assistance because someone else sought assistance for them. The law protects a person from a violation of a condition of pretrial release, probation, or parole, if the evidence of the violation was obtained solely as a result of a person seeking, providing or assisting with medical help to save someone's life.

The law **does not** protect persons witnessing the medical emergency if they're not helping with the medical emergency.

The law protects persons from criminal arrest, charge or prosecution for the six misdemeanors listed below where the evidence was obtained solely because of the act of seeking medical assistance:

- § 5-601: Possessing or Administering CDS
- § 5-619: Drug Paraphernalia
- § 5-620: Controlled Paraphernalia
- § 10-114: Underage Possession of Alcohol
- § 10-116: Obtaining Alcohol for Underage Consumption
- § 10-117: Furnishing for or allowing underage consumption of alcohol

The Good Samaritan Law does not apply to drug felonies or other crimes not listed above. Additionally, it does not prevent law enforcement from conducting an investigation and gathering evidence.

Sample Letter to Parents

Date

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The end of the school year is an opportunity for students and families to celebrate. In recognition of the challenges that students may face at this time of year, we are posting information about the *Good Samaritan Law* on the school website and around the building.

The *Good Samaritan Law* went into effect on October 1, 2015. If an individual, including a minor, calls 911 to obtain assistance for a person who is overdosing or potentially is overdosing, the *Good Samaritan Law* protects that individual, as well as the victim, from arrest and prosecution for the following offences:

- Possession or use of a controlled dangerous substance;
- Possession or use of drug paraphernalia; and
- Providing alcohol to a minor.

We encourage you to talk with your child(ren) about the Maryland *Good Samaritan Law*; its protections for individuals, including students, who call 911 for help; and the need to make safe decisions to protect themselves and their friends.

If you have questions, please call the school at (insert telephone number).

Sincerely,

Principal

(Initials)