

New Hampshire's Good Samaritan Law (Drug Overdoses) Fact Sheet

New Hampshire's Good Samaritan Law (RSA 318-B:28-b) allows people to **call 911** without fear of arrest if they are **having a drug overdose** that requires emergency medical care **or** if they **witness someone overdosing**.

What are the signs of an overdose?

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the following are signs of an overdose. **Call 911** if the person:

- Has small, constricted "pinpoint pupils"
- Is falling asleep or suffers loss of consciousness
- Is not breathing or is breathing very slowly
- Is choking or making gurgling sounds
- Has lips that are blue or grayish color
- Has a limp body

Why should you care about New Hampshire's Good Samaritan Law?

- The law empowers you to save a person's life.
- The law encourages anyone to **call 911** when they see or experience a drug overdose.

Who is protected by New Hampshire's Good Samaritan Law?

- Everyone — regardless of age — who seeks medical help for themselves or someone else during a drug overdose.
- The person who has overdosed.

What does New Hampshire's Good Samaritan Law protect against?

- It protects a person from arrest, prosecution, and conviction for possession of a controlled drug where the evidence was obtained solely because of the act of seeking medical assistance for a drug overdose.

What does New Hampshire's Good Samaritan Law not protect against?

It does not protect a person from:

- The arrest, prosecution and conviction of a crime other than possession of a controlled drug.
- The lawful seizure of any evidence or illegal items.
- The ability of law enforcement officers to detain or place a person into custody as part of a criminal investigation, or to arrest a person for an offense other than possession of a controlled drug.

