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.

NH Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services
Good Samaritan Law RSA 318-B:28-b, V.; www.dhhs.nh.gov/dcbcs/ bdas/