

New York State's 911 Good Samaritan Law Protects YOU

The New York State 911 Good Samaritan Law allows people to call 911 without fear of arrest if they are having a drug or alcohol overdose that requires emergency medical care or if they witness someone overdosing.

The following are signs of an overdose. CALL 911 if the person:

- Is passed out and cannot be woken up;
- Is not breathing, breathing very slowly, or making gurgling sounds;
- Has lips that are blue or grayish color.

Why should you care about the 911 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 or alcohol overdose.

Who is protected by the 911 Good Samaritan Law?

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

The law DOES NOT protect YOU from the following:

- A1 felony possession of a controlled substance (8 ounces or more);
- Sale or Intent to sell controlled substances;
- Open warrants for your arrest; and
- Violation of probation or parole.

The law DOES protect YOU from the following:

- Possessing controlled substances up to and including A2 felony offenses (anything under 8 ounces);
- Possessing alcohol, where underage drinking is involved;
- Possessing marijuana (any quantity);
- Possessing drug paraphernalia; and
- Sharing drugs

What if I am accused of selling drugs?

- Calling 911 can be used in your defense when the charge is less than an A2 felony — as long as you don't have a prior conviction for an A1, A2, or B drug felony sales or attempted sales offense.
- Calling 911 can be a factor in reducing the length of a prison sentence for A1 and A2 felony convictions.

What if I am under the age of 21 years, will this law protect me?

Yes. Nothing should stop YOU from calling 911 in a life-or-death situation.