

Maryland's Good Samaritan Law

Annotated Code of Maryland, Criminal Procedure §1-210

What is a Good Samaritan Law?



According to the national Network for Public Health Law, which is comprised of public health attorneys and practitioners, Good Samaritan Laws:

- provide criminal immunity for certain crimes;
- encourage individuals to summon aid in the event of a drug or alcohol health emergency or overdose; and
- prevent overdose deaths.

Why do I need to know about this law?

If you witness a drug or alcohol medical emergency, you will be more likely to call for help and prevent someone from dying.

Does Maryland have a Good Samaritan Law?

Yes. According to Maryland Law, if you help someone in good faith who is in need of medical assistance from a drug or alcohol medical emergency, you and the person you help are immune from criminal prosecution (Md. Ann. Code Art. CR § 1-210).

From what am I immune?

There is immunity from criminal arrest, charge or prosecution from the following specified offenses if the evidence for the arrest, charge or prosecution was obtained solely as a result of the person seeking or receiving medical assistance:

- § 5-601 Administering Dangerous Substance
- § 5-619 Possession with Intent to Use Paraphernalia
- § 5-620 Possession of Controlled Paraphernalia
- §10-114 Minor Possession of Alcohol
- §10-116 Obtaining Alcohol for Underage Person
- §10-117 Furnishing Alcohol to an Underage Person

What can I do?

Spread the word about this law to former substance users, current users and friends or families of users.

Attend a naloxone training.

Visit www.aahealth.org or www.DENIALisDEADLY.org for information.

Educate others or arrange for a presentation on this law and its application. For fliers or to schedule a presentation, visit www.preventsubstanceabuse.org.



If you or people you know are seeking treatment, call the Anne Arundel County Treatment Referral Line at **410-222-0117**.

If you think you see someone overdosing, call **911**.

