

Maryland's Good Samaritan Law

Maryland's Good Samaritan Law, also called "Good Sam", protects people who help in emergency overdose situations. These Good Samaritans are protected from arrest, as well as prosecution, for certain crimes.

Why does this law exist?

The purpose of the law is to encourage any person, no matter their age, who sees a medical emergency caused by drugs or alcohol, to seek medical assistance without fear of arrest.

What are you protected from?

Good Samaritans are protected from criminal arrest, charge or prosecution for the following crimes. They are protected only because of their act of helping and seeking medical help for someone in an emergency.

- Possessing or administering a controlled dangerous substance
- Drug paraphernalia
- Controlled paraphernalia
- Underage possession of alcohol
- Obtaining alcohol for underage consumption
- Furnishing for or allowing underage consumption of alcohol



Victims are also protected if they receive help because a good Samaritan called help for them.

What are you **NOT** protected from?

You are not protected if you witness an emergency and do not help. The Good Samaritan Law also does not apply to drug felonies or other crimes not listed above. It also does not prevent law enforcement from conducting an investigation and gathering evidence.

Do you have a family member struggling with substance use?

The Parents' Place of Maryland has Family Partner - Behavioral Health Specialists with lived experience that will support you through one-on-one family peer support. Visit ppmd.org/contact or call 410-768-9100 to get support.



Watch PPMD's [Maryland's Good Samaritan Law](#) video for more information.

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PPMD's information, resources, and trainings can be made available in languages other than English, including sign language, upon request. Please contact us regarding your translation and interpretation needs.