



**MARYLAND  
Department of Health**

**Good Samaritan Law Facts**

**Maryland's Good Samaritan Law protects people assisting in an emergency overdose situation from arrest, as well as prosecution, for certain crimes.**

**The purpose of the law is to encourage any person regardless of age, who experiences or observes a medical emergency caused by the ingestion or use of alcohol or other drugs, to seek medical assistance without fear of arrest or prosecution for:**

- **Possessing or using a controlled dangerous substance**
- **Possessing or using drug paraphernalia**
- **Providing alcohol to minors**

**The Good Samaritan Law applies to any person who seeks, provides, or assists with the provision of medical assistance as the result of a person ingesting or using alcohol or drugs.**

**It also applies to the victims if the victims receive assistance because someone else sought assistance for them. The law protects a person from a violation of a condition of pretrial release, probation, or parole, if the evidence of the violation was obtained solely as a result of a person seeking, providing or assisting with medical help to save someone's life.**

**The law does not protect persons witnessing the medical emergency if they're not helping with the medical emergency.**

**The law protects persons from criminal arrest, charge or prosecution for the six misdemeanors listed below where the evidence was obtained solely because of the act of seeking medical assistance:**

- **§ 5-601: Possessing or Administering CDS**
- **§ 5-619: Drug Paraphernalia**
- **§ 5-620: Controlled Paraphernalia**
- **§ 10-114: Underage Possession of Alcohol**
- **§ 10-116: Obtaining Alcohol for Underage Consumption**
- **§ 10-117: Furnishing for or allowing underage consumption of alcohol**

**The Good Samaritan Law does not apply to drug felonies or other crimes not listed above. Additionally, it does not prevent law enforcement from conducting an investigation and gathering evidence.**