

# ARE YOU PROTECTED BY THE **GOOD SAMARITAN** DRUG OVERDOSE ACT?

The *Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act* can protect you and others at the scene from being charged for having or using drugs, if you seek medical help for yourself or for someone else who has overdosed.

## The law **protects** against charges for:

- Having drugs for your own use (“simple possession”)
- Violating any condition of your parole, bail, probation, or conditional sentence (“house arrest”) from a previous **simple possession charge**

## The law **does not protect** against charges for:

- Selling illegal drugs (trafficking): Police may suspect this if you have a large amount of drugs, cash, or items like scales, baggies, and debt lists
- Offences other than simple possession
- Any outstanding arrest warrants
- Violating any condition of your parole, bail, probation, or conditional sentence for **an offence that is not simple possession**



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## Police may not always know about the law's protections.

**British Columbia:** For legal help, call 1-800-663-1919 for Access Pro Bono's Lawyer Referral Service, which will refer you to a lawyer offering a free 15-minute consultation. Available from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.

For legal help specifically for the Indigenous community, call 604-822-5421 for The Indigenous Community Legal Clinic. Available daily from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Yukon:** For legal help, call 867-668-4231 for the Law Society of Yukon's Lawyer Referral Service, which will provide you with a list of lawyers offering a 30-minute consultation for \$30.00 (including GST).



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This is legal information — not legal advice. If you need legal advice, please consult a lawyer about your situation. March 2023.