

It is important to call 911 if you or someone around you is experiencing an overdose. Depending on the circumstances, however, you could still be at risk of being arrested or charged for certain offenses—even under the new Act. This is true whether you are the caller, the person requiring medical attention, or another person at the scene. This chart will tell you when the law does and does not protect you

Are You Protected by the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act?

Disclaimer: Pivot Legal Society has produced this document as public legal information. It is not legal advice. Please consult a lawyer or advocate for advice on your particular situation.

Pivot Legal Society is a human rights organization that works on behalf of marginalized communities. We want to know how well the new law is working. If you were at the scene when police responded to an overdose call and you were charged or convicted of a drug-related offense, a breach of conditions or arrested on a warrant, please let us know: 604-255-9700 ext. 154

When Police Arrive at the Scene	Are You Protected by the Act?	
	Yes	No
You are in possession of illegal drugs for your own personal use	Yes	
You are violating a condition of your parole, pre-trial release, probation order, or conditional sentence for a simple possession charge	Yes	
<p>You are in possession of illegal drugs and you intend to sell them—or it looks that way to police because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You have a large amount of drugs on you • You have a large amount of cash on you • You have drug-selling equipment on you, such as scales or packaging materials 		No
You are in the middle of selling illegal drugs or some other more serious offense, such as robbery or assault		No
You are violating a condition of your parole, pre-trial release, probation order, or conditional sentence for an offense that is not simple possession		No
There is an outstanding warrant for your arrest		No