

Resources

For more information on training and treatment resources visit:

- **NYS OASAS**
www.oasas.ny.gov
- **NYS Department of Health**
www.health.ny.gov
- **Harm Reduction Training Institute**
<http://harmreduction.org>
- Your doctor, pharmacist, or other health care provider.

Further details of the new “911 Good Samaritan Law” can be found in: NY Penal Law §220.78 and NY Practice Criminal Law §26:27.50

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1-877-8-HOPENY

Find Help for **1-877-846-7369**
Alcoholism, Drug Abuse, Problem Gambling

- All calls are free and confidential
- 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- A complete directory of treatment service providers is available at:
www.oasas.ny.gov/pio/needhlp.cfm



Good Samaritan 911 Law

Learn How to
Save a Life and
Protect Yourself

**FREQUENTLY
ASKED
QUESTIONS**



OASAS

New York State
Office of Alcoholism & Substance
Abuse Services
*Addiction Services for Prevention,
Treatment, Recovery*
www.oasas.ny.gov

Educate Yourself Now to be Prepared in an Emergency

The Good Samaritan law went into effect in September 2011. It allows citizens who have been trained to administer NARCAN (Naloxone) to someone who has overdosed from an opiate. NARCAN reverses the overdose temporarily to allow time for the person to get medical attention. NARCAN saves lives!



Additionally, the Good Samaritan law will protect you from being arrested for misdemeanor drug possession if you call for help for a medical emergency.

CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY AND BEFORE ADMINISTERING NARCAN IF YOU SUSPECT AN OVERDOSE.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why was this law passed? Accidental drug overdose is the fourth leading cause of death among adults in New York. Approximately 85 percent of drug overdoses occur in the company of others, but often no medical assistance is sought. Now, the person who has taken an overdose or a witness to it will be able to seek needed health care without fear of prosecution for possession of the substance.

How does the new law protect me if I am the witness or victim of a drug or alcohol overdose?

A person who in good faith seeks care for himself or someone experiencing a life threatening emergency will not be charged or prosecuted for a drug- or alcohol-related offense including possession of drug paraphernalia, with some exceptions.

What are opiates? Opiates include heroin, morphine, codeine, methadone, oxycodone, hydrocodone, fentanyl and hydromorphone. Opiates suppress a person's respiratory center; an overdose stops a person's breathing.

What are the signs of an opiate overdose? Slowed or shallow breathing; dilated pupils; bluish lips and fingernails; heavy nod, not responsive to stimulation. Usually occurs gradually within 1-2 hours and the victim may appear to be sleeping.

When should I call for help? If you suspect an overdose call 911 immediately and before administering NARCAN.

What is NARCAN? NARCAN blocks the opioid effect temporarily and allows time for a person to receive emergency medical attention (generally 20-90 minutes). The medication is injected in the upper arm or thigh and can be administered through clothing. NARCAN is harmless even if opioids were not involved.

How can I become certified to administer NARCAN? Actually, it's easy. Anyone 18 years of age or older can be certified to administer NARCAN. Training is conducted in various locations and can take as little as ten minutes. Prescriptions are written by a medical provider and retained with the NARCAN kit to demonstrate you are certified to administer and carry NARCAN. A new prescription is not needed for replacement kits.

What are the exceptions? Protection does not extend to offenses involving: drug trafficking and sale; obstruction or interference with law enforcement; possession of felony amounts of controlled substances or marijuana.

Are police aware of this law? Yes, recently a meeting was held with the NYS Chiefs of Police. In fact, many law enforcement personnel have attended NARCAN training.

How can I learn more about the new law and NARCAN? See the resource list on the back of this brochure, or talk to your local doctor, pharmacist or health care provider.