

Don't Run. Call 9-1-1. Good Samaritan Law

Don't run...

Call 911



You cannot be charged for possession if you call 911 for an overdose, and neither can the overdose victim.

The most commonly cited reason for not calling for help is fear of arrest or punishment by law enforcement.

In early 2018, Arizona Revised Statute (ARS) 13-3423 was amended.

WHO DOES IT HELP?

Anyone who is at risk for overdose or anyone who cares about someone who could overdose

WHAT DOES IT CHANGE?

Out of fear of arrest, some people leave the scene of an overdose instead of calling for help. And in the past, those who were brave enough to call for help risked going to jail or sending the victim to jail for drug possession. The 911 GOOD SAMARITAN law has changed all of this! Here is how:

If someone is experiencing a drug-related overdose or someone calls 911 in a drug-related overdose, both parties can no longer be charged for the possession or use of a controlled substance or paraphernalia.

You can still be charged with intent to sell if there are greater than these amounts in your possession:

HEROIN: 1 gram

METH, OTHER AMPHETAMINES, OR COCAINE: 9 grams

LSD: ½ milliliter (liquid) or 50 doses (blotter)

PCP: 4 grams (powder) or 50 milliliters (liquid)

MARIJUANA: 2 pounds

Folks who call for help or are overdosing can still be charged with other crimes or use evidence found in other investigations not related to above crimes, and contraband can still be seized.

Calling for help can be used to justify a reduced sentence in unrelated court proceedings.

Note that a person may still be arrested, but they will not face criminal charges for possession of a controlled substance or paraphernalia.