RISE ABOVE
COLORADO

THE GOOD SAMARITAN LAW
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I have to be sober to be protected?
No. You do not have to be sober to be protected by the Good Samaritan Law.

What does the law NOT protect against?
The Good Samaritan Law does not protect against other crimes, such as driving under the influence (DUI), drug distribution or selling drugs, and other unrelated criminal activity.

What happens after I call 911?
First responders will focus on helping the person who overdosed. Sometimes people may be taken to the hospital for medical care. What happens next can depend on the situation.

Will my parents be notified?
If someone involved is a minor, parents or guardians may be contacted depending on the situation.

What if I'm scared and leave the scene?
This law works best when you call for help and remain at the scene. Leaving may affect how the law protects you.

What if a different drug is found than what caused the overdose?
This law focuses on encouraging people to call for help during an overdose emergency. Certain possession charges may still be covered, even if the exact drug is different.

Do I need a lawyer to be protected?
No. The protection comes from the Good Samaritan Law itself when you follow the steps during an overdose emergency.

If I'm just a bystander, will I get in trouble?
If you are at the scene and do not call 911 for help, you will be protected as long as you cooperate with law enforcement at the scene.

Does this law protect me no matter my race, ethnicity, or immigration status?
This law is meant to protect everyone who calls 911 during an overdose, no matter your race, ethnicity, or immigration status. However, people's experiences with law enforcement can be different and what happens in real life may not always be the same for everyone.

GLOSSARY

Good Faith: Acting honestly to help someone in an emergency.

Drug Paraphernalia: Items used to prepare or use drugs (like pipes, needles, or other equipment).

Drug Possession: Having drugs on your person or nearby.

Overdose Event: When someone has taken too much of a drug and their body begins to shut down or stop working normally.

Disclaimer: This resource is intended for educational purposes only. While it reflects current law, it does not guarantee specific outcomes in every situation, as enforcement practices may vary.