

ONE OVERDOSE IS TOO MANY BEING A “GOOD SAMARITAN” CAN SAVE A LIFE!

ARE YOU PROTECTED BY BEING A “GOOD SAMARITAN?”

The Joshua Ashley-Pauley Act “Good Samaritan” law helps Arkansans seek medical attention for people who are overdosing or need follow-up care following an overdose. The law came into effect in 2015 following the death of University of Central Arkansas student Joshua Ashley-Pauley. He died in May 2014 from a drug overdose while with friends. People in drug overdose situations often do not seek help because they are afraid of getting in trouble. The law protects people from being arrested, charged or prosecuted for possessing controlled substances when someone experiencing or observing an opioid-related drug overdose calls 911 for medical assistance. Arkansas is one of 40 states exercising the Joshua Ashley-Pauley Act “Good Samaritan” law.

ACT IN GOOD FAITH

Arkansas Act 1222 protects individuals prescribing, dispensing and using Naloxone and similar drugs if they act “in good faith.” This Act applies to everyone, whether they are health care providers or not. If a person acts to preserve the safety, health and life of someone in danger, they are not liable for civil damages, gross negligence or willful misconduct.

FOLLOW PROTOCOL

Governor Asa Hutchinson recently announced the Naloxone Protocol. This standing order allows Arkansas-licensed pharmacists to order, dispense and administer Naloxone and other necessary supplies to persons at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose. The standing order also protects friends, family members or those who can assist a person at risk. Also known as Narcan or Ezvio, Naloxone is often referred to as an “opioid antagonist.” It can reverse or completely block the effects of opioids in the body. Naloxone is proven safe and effective for use on persons experiencing an opioid-related overdose. Naloxone does not affect a non-opioid overdose.

2012 Arkansas Code Title 17 – “Good Samaritan” Law

(a) Any health care professional under the laws of the State of Arkansas who in good faith lends emergency care or assistance without compensation at the place of an emergency or accident shall not be liable for any civil damages for acts or omissions performed in good faith so long as any act or omission resulting from the rendering of emergency assistance or services was not grossly negligent or willful misconduct.

(b) Any person who is not a health care professional who is present at an emergency or accident scene and who:

(1) Believes that the life, health, and safety of an injured person or a person who is under imminent threat of danger could be aided by reasonable and accessible emergency procedures under the circumstances existing at the scene thereof; and

(2) Proceeds to lend emergency assistance or service in a manner calculated in good faith to lessen or remove the immediate threat to the life, health, or safety of such a person, shall not be held liable in civil damages in any action in this state for any act or omission resulting from the rendering of emergency assistance or services unless the act or omission was not in good faith and was the result of gross negligence or willful misconduct.

(c) No health care professional who in good faith and without compensation renders voluntary emergency assistance to a participant in a school athletic event or contest at the site thereof or during transportation to a health care facility for an injury suffered in the course of the event or contest shall be liable for any civil damages as a result of any acts or omissions by that health care professional in rendering the emergency care. The immunity granted by this subsection shall not apply in the event of an act or omission constituting gross negligence.

(d) For the purposes of this section, “health care professional” means a licensed physician, chiropractic physician, dentist, optometric physician, podiatric physician, and any other licensed health care professional.

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CAN BYSTANDERS GIVE NALOXONE?

With the right tools, bystanders can act to prevent overdose deaths. Anyone can carry naloxone, give it to someone experiencing an overdose and potentially save a life. Naloxone won't harm someone if they're overdosing on drugs other than opioids, so it's always best to use it if you think someone is overdosing.

The effects of an opioid overdose are life-threatening and require immediate treatment. Naloxone can temporarily reverse an opioid overdose. Call 911 for emergency assistance after administering Naloxone.

SYMPTOMS OF AN OPIOID OVERDOSE



Slowed heart rate,
no heartbeat



Slow breathing or
not breathing



Very small or
pinpointed
pupils



Extreme drowsiness,
unconscious, or
unresponsive



Discoloration of
lips and nails



Clammy or
cold skin

WHAT TO DO: ACT!

Administer Naloxone | **C**all 911 | **T**reat person until emergency response arrives



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