New York State’s 911 Good Samaritan Law Protects YOU

The New York State 911 Good Samaritan Law allows people to call 911 without fear of arrest if they are having a drug or alcohol overdose that requires emergency medical care or if they witness someone overdosing.

The following are signs of an overdose. CALL 911 if the person:
- Is passed out and cannot be woken up;
- Is not breathing, breathing very slowly, or making gurgling sounds;
- Has lips that are blue or grayish color.

Why should you care about the 911 Good Samaritan Law?
- The law empowers YOU to save a person’s life.
- The law encourages anyone to call 911 when they see or experience a drug or alcohol overdose.

Who is protected by the 911 Good Samaritan Law?
- Everyone — regardless of age — who seeks medical help for themselves or someone else during an overdose.
- The person who has overdosed.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>The law DOES NOT protect YOU from the following:</th>
<th>The law DOES protect YOU from the following:</th>
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<tr>
<td>• A1 felony possession of a controlled substance (8 ounces or more);</td>
<td>• Possessing controlled substances up to and including A2 felony offenses (anything under 8 ounces);</td>
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<td>• Sale or intent to sell controlled substances;</td>
<td>• Possessing alcohol, where underage drinking is involved;</td>
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<td>• Open warrants for your arrest; and</td>
<td>• Possessing marijuana (any quantity);</td>
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<td>• Violation of probation or parole.</td>
<td>• Possessing drug paraphernalia; and</td>
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<td>• Sharing drugs</td>
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What if I am accused of selling drugs?
- Calling 911 can be used in your defense when the charge is less than an A2 felony — as long as you don’t have a prior conviction for an A1, A2, or B drug felony sales or attempted sales offense.
- Calling 911 can be a factor in reducing the length of a prison sentence for A1 and A2 felony convictions.

What if I am under the age of 21 years, will this law protect me?
Yes. Nothing should stop YOU from calling 911 in a life-or-death situation.