

IF YOU SUSPECT AN OVERDOSE...



TREAT IT AS A TRUE MEDICAL EMERGENCY AND CALL 911 IMMEDIATELY!

DO:

- Tell medical professionals everything that the victim consumed or may have consumed
- Follow the directions of the 911 operator
- Stay with the victim until help arrives
- Choose life first, all other considerations must come second.

DO NOT:

- Allow victim to "sleep it off"
- Put the victim in a bath or shower
- Inject the victim with anything
- Leave the victim alone
- Treat the victim with home remedies that do not work and often postpone life-saving medical treatment
- Postpone calling '911' while cleaning up
- Suffer a lifetime of regret for making the wrong choice



www.pbso.org

Emergencies
Dial 9-1-1

Non-Emergency
(561) 688-3000

If you would like learn more about our efforts,
please contact:

Susan Klarich, Ph.D.
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
West Palm Beach, FL
561 688-4055
klarichs@pbso.org

Palm Beach/Treasure Coast 



Get Connected. Get Answers.

Dial 2-1-1 or 1 (866) 882-2991
Suicide prevention, crisis
intervention, information, and
community services



**PALM BEACH COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Ric L. Bradshaw, Sheriff

911 Good Samaritan Act

F.S.S. 893.21 Drug-related overdoses; medical assistance;
immunity from prosecution



Signs of an Overdose

- > May not awaken when aroused
- > May not respond to painful stimulation such as rubbing knuckles across his/her sternum
- > May exhibit blue/purple lips, face and hands
- > May snore or struggle to breathe
- > May complain of elevated body temperature
- > May vomit
- > May behave irrationally or seem confused



Recovery Position Steps from HeretoHelp.bc.ca:

1. Raise the person's closest arm above their head. Prepare the person to roll toward you.
2. Gently roll the person's entire body toward you. Guard their head while you roll them.
3. Tilt the person's head up to keep their airway open. Tuck their nearest hand under their cheek to help keep their head tilted.
4. Do not leave the person alone. Stay with them until help arrives.

To help someone that is unconscious but still breathing, place them in the recovery position pictured above. The recovery position is designed to avoid suffocation during a drug overdose. Facing the victim upward can lead to suffocation due to vomit, therefore, place the individual on their side with their arm under their head so that their mouth is facing downward, which allows for fluids to drain from his/her airway. Then, dial 911 immediately!!!

“Sometimes You Never Sleep It Off..”™

Calling for help shouldn't be a crime.



**Help save lives.
Support Good Samaritan Policies.**

911 Good Samaritan Act

Florida State Statute 893.21:

- (1) A person acting in good faith who seeks medical assistance for an individual experiencing a drug-related overdose may not be charged, prosecuted, or penalized pursuant to this chapter for possession of a controlled substance if the evidence for possession of a controlled substance was obtained as a result of the person's seeking medical assistance.
- (2) A person who experiences a drug-related overdose and is in need of medical assistance may not be charged, prosecuted, or penalized pursuant to this chapter for possession of

a controlled substance if the evidence for possession of a controlled substance was obtained as a result of the overdose and the need for medical assistance.

- (3) Protection in this section from prosecution for possession offenses under this chapter may not be grounds for suppression of evidence in other criminal prosecutions.

This Act became effective as of October 1, 2012

