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HB 965 Georgia 9-1-1 Medical Amnesty Law

In 2014, Georgia passed House Bill 965, “Georgia 9-1-1 Medical Amnesty Law.” The bill was passed by overwhelming majorities in the state House and Senate and was signed by Governor Deal on April 24, 2014. The law went into effect immediately and provides that anyone seeking medical assistance for themselves or someone else for a drug overdose cannot be charged with a drug violation if the evidence of the drug violation results “solely from seeking such medical assistance.”

The law provides limited immunity from arrest, charge and prosecution for possession of certain drugs and drug paraphernalia for individuals who experience a drug overdose and are in need of medical care, and for those who seek medical care in good faith for a person experiencing an overdose. The bill also provides limited immunity from certain underage drinking offenses for minors who seek help in the event of an alcohol overdose.

The 9-1-1 bill allows physicians who are licensed to practice medicine in Georgia to prescribe naloxone on a standing order to at-risk patients or a person or group who is in a position to help an at-risk patient. The law expands access to naloxone by authorizing trained first responders, including law enforcement officers, firefighters, and EMS personnel to administer the medication. The law further allows for a naloxone prescription to be issued to members of the public at large who are themselves at risk or who are in a position to assist a person at risk.

Additionally, the bill establishes limited civil and criminal immunity for medical professionals who prescribe naloxone and laypeople who administer it to a person suspected of suffering from an opioid overdose.

Naloxone → an effective, non-addictive prescription medication that reverses opioid drug overdose. Under the 9-1-1 Medical Amnesty Law, a unit dose of naloxone can be delivered either by the intranasal or intramuscular route using a specified applicator.

Prescribing naloxone → physicians can now prescribe naloxone in accordance with a physician specified protocol to a person at risk of experiencing an opioid related overdose or to a pain management clinic, first responder, harm reduction organization, family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opioid related overdose.

Professional Immunity → physicians and other health care professionals who prescribe naloxone and the people who administer naloxone in the case of an overdose in good faith will be immune from any civil or criminal charges.

For any questions or concerns regarding the 9-1-1 Medical Amnesty Law, please contact Kimberly Ramseur at 678.303.9274 or kramseur@mag.org.

save a life. call 9-1-1.



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Georgia 9-1-1 Medical Amnesty Law