

Good Samaritan Law to Protect Those Seeking Help for Others in Need



Pennsylvania's Good Samaritan or immunity from prosecution in Underage Drinking cases is called "Safe Harbor" and is found at [18 Pa.C.S.A. 6308.1](#).

In the past, the person that called for medical assistance was often protected from prosecution, but the person that needed the medical assistance was not. Now, **the caller AND the person needing medical assistance are immune from prosecution** IF certain conditions are met.

In order to fall under the protection of the Safe Harbor or Good Samaritan law, the *caller* for medical assistance must follow certain rules including seeking medical assistance for the person in need, cooperating with the police or emergency personnel and staying with the person in need until help arrives on the scene.

If the caller does not follow the immunity law requirements, then neither the caller NOR the person needing medical assistance is immune.

Limitations of the Good Samaritan Law

The Safe Harbor protections are limited to Underage Drinking or Possession of Alcohol by a Minor charges under 18 Pa.C.S. 6308. Other alcohol-related criminal charges, such as a misdemeanor offense of [Furnishing Alcohol to Minor](#), can still be filed by the police. If the police respond to the call for assistance and see marijuana, controlled substances, or drug paraphernalia in plain view, misdemeanor possession charges for possession or felony offenses for Possession With Intent to Deliver can, and normally will be, filed. While the caller may not be charged with a summary offense of Underage Drinking, the immunity protection does not prevent the filing of other criminal charges.

Ursinus College

If you are concerned for a friend, contact Campus Safety at 610-409-3333 or call 911. The Ursinus College policy mimics that of the law and will not charge any students with underage drinking or alcohol possession if they are seeking help for someone in need.

The signs of alcohol overdose include:

- 1) Vomiting – especially if semi-conscious or unconscious
- 2) Unconscious or unresponsive
- 3) Slow or irregular breathing (less than 8 breaths per minute or more than 10 seconds in between breath)
- 4) Signs of hypothermia (cold, clammy, pale, blue/purple skin especially in nailbeds)

