



**Senator**

District

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#4021 8/17

**SEE AN  
OVERDOSE?  
DO SOMETHING!**



**Provided by  
Senator  
District**



Under state law, you cannot get in trouble for being present and witnessing an overdose of a controlled substance **IF YOU REPORT IT.**

**If you suspect a friend, loved one or someone else has overdosed CALL 911.**

Police and paramedics are equipped with the drug naloxone, which can revive a person who has stopped breathing due to an overdose – **IF it is administered in time.**

## **IF YOU WITNESS AN OVERDOSE**

- 1. Call 911**
- 2. Give your name to authorities and cooperate**
- 3. Remain with the overdose victim until help arrives**

Taking these steps will protect you from arrest for offenses, including parole and probation violations. (The law won't protect against prosecution if you provided the drugs that caused the overdose.)

Under “David’s Law,” Act 139 of 2014, friends, loved ones and bystanders are encouraged to call 911 for emergency medical services in the event an overdose is witnessed and to stay with the individual until help arrives. The law is named for David John Massi II of Delaware County. He was 27 when he died on Jan. 27, 2013 of an overdose of a mixture of drugs that included heroin. Callers will not be prosecuted.

## **SIGNS OF AN OPIOID OVERDOSE**

- **Slow or shallow breathing**
- **Very sleepy and unable to talk, or unconscious**
- **Does not respond to attempts to rouse to consciousness**
- **Skin color is blue or grayish, with dark lips and fingernails**
- **Snoring or gurgling sounds**

*Opioids include heroin, fentanyl, oxycodone/OxyContin, hydrocodone/Vicodin, codeine, morphine and many others drugs.*

## **HELPING SOMEONE WHO HAS SURVIVED AN OVERDOSE FIND TREATMENT**

Tell the person who has recently survived an overdose that help from addiction is available and that he or she can fully recover from addiction. Caring professionals work at drug treatment programs and county drug and alcohol offices -- they can help a person get the help the person needs. You can get information about the services available in your county by visiting [apps.ddap.pa.gov/gethelp-now](https://apps.ddap.pa.gov/gethelp-now) and clicking on “Care Provide Search.”

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT**

PA Dept of Drug and Alcohol Programs  
[www.ddap.pa.gov](http://www.ddap.pa.gov) 1-800-662-4357

