

# HAZING AND MEDICAL AMNESTY LAWS



## MEDICAL AMNESTY

Many states have enacted medical amnesty, which is defined as laws and policies that protect people from liability if they seek medical attention – for themselves or others – no matter the situation.

This means that if someone is overdosing on alcohol or drugs, a bystander can call for help and may not be prosecuted and/or face charges under a school or college's student code of conduct (and/or state law).

This applies even if:

- The caller or the person overdosing has committed an alcohol violation, such as underage drinking
- The caller or the person overdosing has committed a drug violation

Where to find details about medical amnesty in West Virginia:

See the West Virginia Alcohol and Drug Overdose Prevention and Clemency Act, W.Va. Code §§ 16-47-1 to -6: [wvlegislature.gov/wvcode/Code.cfm?chap=16&art=47#47](http://wvlegislature.gov/wvcode/Code.cfm?chap=16&art=47#47)

### Where to find details about medical amnesty nationwide:

There is no federal law concerning medical amnesty. Many states have their own medical amnesty laws, including Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Carolina, North Dakota, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Washington, D.C

A good place to investigate what the law is like in your state is [medicalamnesty.org](http://medicalamnesty.org).

Many colleges and universities have created policies that support medical amnesty for their students. Check your school's student code of conduct.

Where to find details about medical amnesty at West Virginia University:

Review Section 16 of the Student Conduct Code for detailed information:  
[studentconduct.wvu.edu/campus-student-code](http://studentconduct.wvu.edu/campus-student-code)



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## ANTI-HAZING LAWS

“Hazing” refers to any activities or tasks expected of someone joining a group that intend to humiliate, degrade or harm them, regardless of a person’s willingness to participate. This often occurs to wrongfully make new members think they must endure these activities to gain official membership into a group. Hazing can happen in any group setting, such as sports teams, Greek organizations, bands, clubs and societies. These activities may cause physical, mental or emotional abuse – or even death.

Colleges and universities have policies that prohibit hazing and enforce punishments for it. Please investigate the student code of conduct at your institution; the office of student life is a good place to start. WVU’s anti-hazing code can be found at [safety.wvu.edu/safety-on-campus/hazing](https://safety.wvu.edu/safety-on-campus/hazing).

And almost all U.S. states have outlawed hazing. Laws vary by state, but you can check on the regulations in your area at [hazingprevention.org/home/hazing/statelaws](https://hazingprevention.org/home/hazing/statelaws).



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