

§ 90-96.2. Drug-related overdose treatment; limited immunity.

(a) As used in this section, "drug-related overdose" means an acute condition, including mania, hysteria, extreme physical illness, coma, or death resulting from the consumption or use of a controlled substance, or another substance with which a controlled substance was combined, and that a layperson would reasonably believe to be a drug overdose that requires medical assistance.

(b) Limited Immunity for Samaritan. – A person shall not be prosecuted for any of the offenses listed in subsection (c3) of this section if all of the following requirements and conditions are met:

- (1) The person sought medical assistance for an individual experiencing a drug-related overdose by contacting the 911 system, a law enforcement officer, or emergency medical services personnel.
- (2) The person acted in good faith when seeking medical assistance, upon a reasonable belief that he or she was the first to call for assistance.
- (3) The person provided his or her own name to the 911 system or to a law enforcement officer upon arrival.
- (4) The person did not seek the medical assistance during the course of the execution of an arrest warrant, search warrant, or other lawful search.
- (5) The evidence for prosecution of the offenses listed in subsection (c3) of this section was obtained as a result of the person seeking medical assistance for the drug-related overdose.

(c) Limited Immunity for Overdose Victim. – The immunity described in subsection (b) of this section shall extend to the person who experienced the drug-related overdose if all of the requirements and conditions listed in subdivisions (1), (2), (4), and (5) of subsection (b) of this section are satisfied.

(c1) Probation or Release. – A person shall not be subject to arrest or revocation of pretrial release, probation, parole, or post-release if the arrest or revocation is based on an offense for which the person is immune from prosecution under subsection (b) or (c) of this section. The arrest of a person for an offense for which subsection (b) or (c) of this section may provide the person with immunity will not itself be deemed to be a commission of a new criminal offense in violation of a condition of the person's pretrial release, condition of probation, or condition of parole or post-release.

(c2) Civil Liability for Arrest or Charges. – In addition to any other applicable immunity or limitation on civil liability, a law enforcement officer who, acting in good faith, arrests or charges a person who is thereafter determined to be entitled to immunity under this section shall not be subject to civil liability for the arrest or filing of charges.

(c3) Covered Offenses. – A person shall have limited immunity from prosecution under subsections (b) and (c) of this section for only the following offenses:

- (1) A misdemeanor violation of G.S. 90-95(a)(3).
- (2) A felony violation of G.S. 90-95(a)(3) for possession of less than one gram of any controlled substance.
- (3) Repealed by Session Laws 2023-123, s. 3, effective December 1, 2023, and applicable to offenses committed on or after that date.
- (4) A violation of G.S. 90-113.22.

(d) Construction. – Nothing in this section shall be construed to do any of the following:

- (1) Bar the admissibility of any evidence obtained in connection with the investigation and prosecution of (i) other crimes committed by a person who otherwise qualifies for limited immunity under this section or (ii) any crimes committed by a person who does not qualify for limited immunity under this section.

- (2) Limit any seizure of evidence or contraband otherwise permitted by law.
- (3) Limit or abridge the authority of a law enforcement officer to detain or take into custody a person in the course of an investigation of, or to effectuate an arrest for, any offense other than an offense listed in subsection (c3) of this section.
- (4) Limit or abridge the authority of a probation officer to conduct drug testing of persons on pretrial release, probation, or parole. (2013-23, s. 1; 2015-94, s. 1; 2023-123, s. 3.)