

## **Act 139 of 2014**

### **What is Act 139?**

This legislation allows first responders including law enforcement the ability to administer a medication known as naloxone, a life-saving opioid reversal medication, to individuals experiencing an opioid overdose. Additionally, Act 139 provides immunity from prosecution for those responding to and reporting overdoses.

### **What is naloxone?**

Naloxone is a medication that can reverse an overdose that is caused by an opioid drug (i.e. prescription pain medication or heroin). When administered during an overdose, naloxone blocks the effects of opioids on the brain and restores breathing within two to eight minutes. Naloxone has been used safely by medical professionals for more than 40 years and has only one function: to reverse the effects of opioids on the brain and respiratory system in order to prevent death.

### **What does this mean for law enforcement in Pa?**

Police officers may now obtain, carry, and administer naloxone in the event of an opioid overdose. In order to do so, any police department must first enter into a written agreement with an Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agency. This written agreement is valid only under the consent of the EMS Medical Director or another physician. Additionally, those non-licensed first responder agencies must also complete a Department of Health approved training and obtain a prescription or standing order to obtain and administer naloxone. [Click here](#) for more information.

### **How is the Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association Assisting?**

The Pennsylvania Chiefs of Police Association has been working with a statewide workgroup including the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency, the Pennsylvania District Attorneys' Association, the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs, The Pennsylvania Department of Health, the Delaware County District Attorney, the County Commissioners' Association and numerous other agencies. The result of PCPA's participation is the production of a PA specific, PA approved online training. The training is available to PA municipal police officers through Pennsylvania Virtual Training Network and to the PA State police troopers through the State Learning Management System.

In addition to training, PCPA is administering a grant from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency to assist police departments equipping their department with the drug, Naloxone. This effort is being coordinated with the PA District Attorneys' and the County Commissioners' Association. For further information please email [cjbraun@pachiefs.org](mailto:cjbraun@pachiefs.org)

### **What does this mean for members of the community?**

Members of the community, family members and friends may be prescribed naloxone and can lawfully administer the drug to someone who is experiencing an overdose. This was included in the law because often times when an overdose occurs, friends and family are the

first on the scene. A prescription for naloxone may be obtained through a physician. Before administering naloxone, you should first complete Department of Health approved naloxone training. Additionally, Act 139 provides immunity to those individuals who acting in good faith and with reasonable care administer naloxone to someone they believe is experiencing an opioid overdose, as long as they have taken the approved training and seek prompt medical care. [Click here](#) for more information.

**What is the Good Samaritan Provision?**

Through the Good Samaritan provision of Act 139, friends and loved ones are encouraged to call 911 for emergency medical services in the event an overdose is witnessed. The provision offers certain criminal and civil protections and provides reassurance to the caller that they cannot get in trouble for being present, witnessing and reporting an overdose.