

## **ASWB Administrators' Listserv Summary**

### ***Naloxone Administration by Social Workers***

#### **Arizona**

Tobi Zavala, Arizona State Board of Social Work Examiners

#### *ASWB for Arizona*

1. Has your board/college or licensing agency had any discussion regarding the use of naloxone by social workers?
2. Have you developed a policy statement or taken a position re. administration of naloxone by social workers?

ASWB Response .....	2
Response Summary.....	2
Individual Responses.....	3
Idaho .....	3
Louisiana .....	3
Montana .....	3
New Brunswick.....	3
Ontario.....	3
Illinois.....	4
New York.....	4
Saskatchewan .....	5
Iowa .....	5
Texas .....	5
Vermont.....	5
Nevada .....	5
Prince Edward Island.....	6

## ASWB Response

In 2021, the U.S. Government Accountability Office conducted a review of the nation's Good Samaritan laws and Naloxone Access laws. Good Samaritan laws provide protection to individuals who call or seek medical assistance for a victim of overdose, whereas Naloxone Access laws protect individuals who administer the opioid-reversal drug. From their review, they found that 48 jurisdictions (47 states and D.C) have both Good Samaritan laws and Naloxone Access laws. Three jurisdictions have Naloxone Access laws but do not have Good Samaritan laws and five jurisdictions do not have either Good Samaritan laws or Naloxone Access laws (U.S. Government Accountability Office, 2021). However, the laws vary in what immunities/protections they offer and who qualifies for said protection. The Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association also did a study on Naloxone Access laws. They compiled a detailed summary in 2023 that outlines applicable laws by providing a detailed breakdown that includes the statute citation, effective dates, and which individuals/professionals are protected under said laws. A link to both the U.S. Government Accountability Office's and the Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association's reports is provided below.

[Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Associations: Naloxone Access Summary of State Laws](#)  
[U.S. Government Accountability Office Good Samaritan and Naloxone Access laws Report](#)

## Response Summary

Thirteen jurisdictions responded. Eleven jurisdictions stated that they have something in place that protects social workers when administering naloxone. Eight jurisdictions have something in place that addresses social workers' rights to administer naloxone. Of these eight jurisdictions, two address the administration of naloxone by social workers in their jurisdiction's practice act. Three jurisdictions stated that social workers are protected through General/Good Samaritan laws. One jurisdiction stated that they do not have anything in place that addresses social workers administering naloxone.

Respondents from the following jurisdictions indicated that social workers are protected when administering naloxone in emergency situations.

- Idaho (statement)
- Louisiana (legal opinion)
- Montana (standing order)
- New Brunswick (guidelines for social workers)
- Ontario (policy for social workers)
- Illinois (addressed in practice act)
- New York (addressed in unprofessional conduct section of practice act)
- Saskatchewan (policy statement from college)
- Iowa (declaratory order)
- Texas (protected through general laws)
- Vermont (protected through general laws)
- Nevada (protected through general laws)

## Individual Responses

### Idaho

Debi A. Casto, Idaho Division of Occupational & Professional Licenses  
[REDACTED]

*The attached document is what Idaho currently has in place.*

<https://www.simplelists.com/app/cache/aswb-admin/25984066/2.pdf>

### Louisiana

Emily DeAngelo, Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners  
[REDACTED]

*I have attached a legal opinion from the board's counsel regarding this subject.*

<https://www.simplelists.com/app/cache/aswb-admin/26009722/2.pdf>

### Montana

Patti Renenger, Montana Board of Behavioral Health  
[REDACTED]

*We have a standing order – please see attached.*

<https://www.simplelists.com/app/cache/aswb-admin/25983768/2.pdf>

### New Brunswick

Miguel LeBlanc, BSW, MSW, RSW/RSI, New Brunswick Association of Social Workers  
[REDACTED]

*Please find attached the NB Guidelines for Social Workers' administering Naloxone. Thank you, and I hope to see you all in San Diego! Cheers, Miguel.*

<https://www.simplelists.com/app/cache/aswb-admin/26054164/2.pdf>

<https://www.simplelists.com/app/cache/aswb-admin/26054164/3.pdf>

### Ontario

Christina Van Sickle, BSW, MSW, RSW, Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers  
[REDACTED]

*The Ontario College of Social Workers and Social Service Workers permit registrants to administer Naloxone and has written this policy for registrants in the Practice Guidelines for Medication Practices, which state:*

*The College supports registrants administering Naloxone in emergent situations. Registrants may administer Naloxone to someone experiencing an actual or reasonably perceived drug overdose where no qualified medical professional can manage the situation. The College urges all registrants who may encounter the need to administer Naloxone to receive appropriate training.*

*Training in administering Naloxone and opioid overdose response is available through local Public Health Units and follows Ontario's 5-step overdose response framework.*

- *Recognize and temporarily reverse an opioid overdose | [ontario.ca](https://ontario.ca)*
- *Public Health Unit locations | [ontario.ca](https://ontario.ca)*

*Ontario's Good Samaritan Act, 2001 protects a person from liability should they attempt to help someone in distress. The administration of Naloxone in response to an opioid-related overdose is similar to using an item in a first aid kit when responding to another type of medical emergency.*

*Registrants should err in clients' best interests and administer Naloxone in case of a suspected Opioid overdose.*

## **Illinois**

Daniel A. Kelber, Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation

*In Illinois, Public Act 103-1048 adds the following section to the Clinical Social Work and Social Work Practice Act, effective 1/1/2025:*

*(225 ILCS 20/4.5 new)*

*Sec. 4.5. Opioid antagonists.*

*(a) A licensed clinical social worker or licensed social worker may possess and administer opioid antagonists in the licensed clinical social worker's or licensed social worker's professional capacity.*

*(b) If a person employs a licensed clinical social worker or licensed social worker and the licensed clinical social worker or licensed social worker possess an opioid antagonist in a professional capacity, then the employer must:*

*(1) provide training in the administration of opioid antagonists; and*

*(2) establish a policy to control the acquisition, storage, transportation, and administration of opioid antagonists.*

## **New York**

David H. Hamilton, Ph.D., New York Board of Social Work

*New York laws defining unprofessional conduct were amended several years ago by adding 6509-d:*

*§6509-d. Limited exemption from professional misconduct.*

*Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, it shall not be considered professional misconduct pursuant to this sub-article for any person who is licensed under title eight of this chapter and who would otherwise be prohibited from prescribing or administering drugs pursuant to the article that licenses such individual, to administer an opioid antagonist in the event of an emergency.*

*This protects the social worker, who ordinarily could not administer drugs, etc.*

### **Saskatchewan**

Karen Wasylenska, MSW, RSW, Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers

[REDACTED]

1. Yes
2. Yes, link is here <https://www.sasw.ca/document/6380/SASW-Naloxone-2021.pdf>

### **Iowa**

Tony Alden, Iowa Department of Inspections, Appeals, & Licensing

[REDACTED]

PDF Attachment: <https://www.simplelists.com/app/cache/aswb-admin/25982740/2.pdf>

### **Texas**

Darrel D. Skinks, Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council

[REDACTED]

1. No, Texas has not. However, Texas has a statute that provides immunity for anyone administering an opioid antagonist in good faith and with reasonable care. See Section [483.106](#), Health and Safety Code.
2. No, Texas has not. Because the authority to administer Naloxone exists in general law in Texas, the agency doesn't need a separate rule, policy, or position statement.

### **Vermont**

Emily Tredeau, Vermont Office of Professional Regulation

[REDACTED]

*Vermont does not have any social-worker-specific policy on the use of naloxone by social workers. There has not been occasion to do so because any person, licensed or not, may administer naloxone to a person they believe in good faith is experiencing an opioid-related overdose. 18 V.S.A. § 4240(d)(1). The law does not exclude social workers from this general authorization.*

### **Nevada**

Vikki Erickson, LCSW, Nevada Board of Examiners for Social Workers

[REDACTED]

1. No
2. It appears we are covered by the Good Samaritan Law, but we have no language in our social work law that gives us permission to administer this.

**Prince Edward Island**

Cathy Ada, PEI Social Work Registration Board

[REDACTED]

*In PEI, Canada, we have not had Board discussions about this.*