



CUMBERLAND COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

DAVID J. FREED
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**CUMBERLAND COUNTY DA
INSTALLS 18 PA MEDRETURN BOXES**

*Unwanted, unused and expired prescription and over-the-counter medications
are a health and public safety issue.*

Carlisle, PA— With prescription drug abuse on the rise in Pennsylvania, District Attorney David J. Freed announced the installation of 18 secure medicine return boxes to allow people to dispose of unused and expired prescription and over-the-counter medication safely and anonymously.

The new boxes will join 2 already-established boxes to provide local residents with a total of 20 locations throughout the county. Collection boxes will be located in 15 of 16 municipal police departments, 3 county buildings, Dickinson College and Shippensburg University.

"The best way to avoid the risks of prescription drug abuse is to safely dispose of medications when they are unused or expired," said Freed. "These PA MedReturn drop boxes offer the public a safe, accessible, and convenient way to dispose of old medicines and help prevent the scourge of prescription drug abuse that is plaguing Pennsylvania."

The PA MedReturn boxes were awarded to the District Attorney's Office through a grant program made possible by a partnership between the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association, the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency as part of Governor Tom Corbett's Healthy PA initiative.

"Our ultimate goal in creating this program is to provide education opportunities for the public, while reducing drug abuse and dependency," said Gary Tennis, Secretary of Pennsylvania Drug and Alcohol Programs.

Prescription drug abuse is the nation's fastest-growing drug problem and has been classified an epidemic by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In recent years, district attorneys across Pennsylvania have seen an increase in teenage pill parties, driving under the influence, a dramatic increase in the use of heroin, and the consequences of crimes - all related to prescription drug addiction.

The boxes will accept: prescription and over-the-counter solid medications (tablets and capsules); liquid medications, inhalers, creams ointments, nasal sprays; and pet medications. The boxes will NOT accept: intravenous solutions, injectable and needles; or illicit substances such as marijuana and methamphetamine.

Additional information about the dangers of prescription drug abuse and to get help for yourself or a loved one is available at www.ddap.pa.gov.

A list of all the PA MedReturn boxes in Pennsylvania is available at:
<http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=1677241&mode=2>

INFORMATION TO KNOW

Where are the boxes located in Cumberland County?

A list of locations is attached

A statewide location finder is available at www.ddap.pa.gov.

What products are accepted by PA MedReturn boxes?

- ✓ Prescription and over-the-counter solid medications (tablets and capsules);
- ✓ liquid medications, inhalers, creams ointments, nasal sprays; and
- ✓ pet medications.

What products are NOT accepted by PA MedReturn boxes?

- ✓ Intravenous solutions, injectable and needles

Will people know I dropped off prescription medicines?

The program is free and anonymous. Be sure to remove any prescription medication labels or place all of your pills in a plastic bag.

What else can people do to prevent prescription drug abuse?

- ✓ Consider using a lock box or hide medications in a discrete location in your home so they are not easy for others to find.
- ✓ Keep track of your medicine. Count how many pills you have at any given time to check for missing pills.
- ✓ Don't share your medications under any circumstances.
- ✓ Keep a low profile. Your medicines are your business. There's no reason to tell people about the medicines you take.
- ✓ Properly dispose of old or unused medicines. If a Take Back Program is not available, prescription drugs can be placed in a container mixed with used coffee grounds or kitty litter and thrown in the garbage.
- ✓ Store your medications in a secure and dry place (not bathrooms).

Where can people with prescription drug addictions find help?

Bottom line, treatment works. Under Pennsylvania law, Medicaid and most private health insurance will cover the cost of treatment. More information about treatment is available at www.ddap.pa.gov.

Who is responsible for the PA MedReturn program?

Local district attorneys may receive grants through the Pennsylvania District Attorneys Association to have PA Med Return boxes installed in secure, permanent collection boxes in their counties.

The grants are made possible through the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs and the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency as part of Governor Tom Corbett's Healthy PA initiative.

MedReturn
Drug Collection Unit



Medication Collection Box Locations

Box Locations:

Camp Hill Police Department

2199 Walnut Street

Camp Hill, PA 17011

Carlisle Borough Police Department

240 Lincoln Street

Carlisle, PA 17013

Cumberland County Courthouse

One Courthouse Square

Carlisle, PA 17013

Cumberland County Human Services Building

16 West High Street

Carlisle, PA 17013

Cumberland County Bureau of Justice Services

37 East High Street

Carlisle, PA 17013

Dickinson College Department of Public Safety

400 West North Street

Carlisle, PA 17013

Hampden Township Police Department
230 South Sporting Hill Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

East Pennsboro Township Police Department
98 South Enola Drive
Enola, PA 17025

Lower Allen Township Police Department
2233 Gettysburg Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011

Mechanicsburg Borough Police Department
36 West Allen Street
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Middlesex Township Police Department
350 North Middlesex Road
Carlisle, PA 17013

Mt. Holly Springs Police Department
200 Harman Street
Mt. Holly Springs, PA 17065

New Cumberland Borough Police Department
1120 Market Street
New Cumberland, PA 17070

Newville Borough Police Department

27 West Big Spring Avenue

Newville, PA 17241

North Middleton Township Police Department

2051 Spring Road

Carlisle, PA 17013

Shippensburg Borough Police Department

60 West Burd Street

Shippensburg, PA 17257

Shippensburg University Department of Public Safety

1871 Old Main Drive

Shippensburg, PA 17257

Silver Spring Township Police Department

5 Willow Mill Park Road, Suite 1

Mechanicsburg, PA 17050

Upper Allen Township Police Department

100 Gettysburg Pike

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

West Shore Regional Police Department

510 Herman Avenue

Lemoyne, PA 17043

Prescription Drug Abuse FAST FACTS

Prescription drug abuse is an epidemic in America, including Pennsylvania. In October 2013, a national study revealed that Pennsylvania ranks 14th in the nation in the number of drug overdose deaths. There has been an 89 percent increase in the number of drug overdose deaths between 1999 - 2010.

- ✓ 3 million teenagers will become new prescription drug abusers this year. *(America's Addiction To Illicit Drugs Declining And Prescription Painkiller Abuse Growing, Narcanon Drug Education & Rehabilitation).*
- ✓ In 2010, the number of deaths from prescription opioids was greater than the number of deaths from heroin and cocaine overdoses combined. *(Prescription Drug Abuse: Strategies to Stop the Epidemic; Trust for America's Health.)*
- ✓ In Pennsylvania, the drug overdose death rate (15.3) was greater than the motor vehicle death rate (11.0) in 2010. *(Prescription Drug Abuse: Strategies to Stop the Epidemic; Trust for America's Health.)*
- ✓ Nearly one-third of those aged 12 and over who used drugs for the first time in 2009 began by using a prescription drug non-medically. *(Results from the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: National Findings, SAMHSA).*
- ✓ More than a quarter of teens (27 percent) mistakenly believe that misusing and abusing prescription drugs is safer than using street drugs. *(2012 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study, The Partnership for Drug Free America.)*
- ✓ One in four teens has misused or abused a prescription drug at least once in their lifetime - a 33% increase over the past 5 years. *(2012 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study, The Partnership for Drug Free America).*
- ✓ One third of teens say they believe that it is okay to use prescription drugs that were not prescribed to them to deal with an injury, illness or physical pain. *(2012 Partnership Attitude Tracking Study, The Partnership for Drug Free America).*
- ✓ 20 percent of Americans over the age of 12 have admitted to abusing prescription drugs. *(America's Addiction To Illicit Drugs Declining And Prescription Painkiller Abuse Growing, Narcanon Drug Education & Rehabilitation).*

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