

LEGAL CONSEQUENCES OF “SHARING”

Possession of a controlled substance without a prescription is illegal. The private distribution, manufacture and sale of prescription drugs, or the possession or use of prescription drugs that are not prescribed to you, are against the law. Consequences for the possession and criminal sale of prescription drugs may include fines and imprisonment.

If you are a student, you may be risking your education by sharing drugs. College disciplinary action may be taken which may result in sanctions including, but not limited to, suspension or dismissal from the College of Charleston. If you are convicted of violating any of these laws, you forfeit opportunities for federal aid and the S.C. Life scholarship.

In order to protect yourself from the legal implications of drug sharing, and your friends from bodily harm, it is important that you prevent the theft of your medication. If you have extra pills, store them securely. If you do not need the pills anymore, dispose of them in a secure way that prevents recovery, such as flushing.

This information was provided in part by the American University Counseling Center, and the American University Student Health Center.

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“SHARING”

MEDICATIONS CAN BE A PRESCRIPTION FOR DANGER!



KEEP IT TO YOURSELF

Medications at any dose can be dangerous or lethal, and can be highly addictive. Prescription drugs are especially dangerous when they are taken without a previous medical assessment.

Your physician has prescribed your medications for you - and you alone. If you take prescription medications, your physician (who knows your medical history) has chosen the specific medications and doses, and given you directions for their use, according to your needs and symptoms.

You cannot predict another person's reaction to a drug that you take safely. Nor can you predict your own reaction to a drug that another person takes safely.

If you should happen to give or sell your medications to another person, or you should take another person's prescription medications, there could be an allergic or idiosyncratic reaction caused by an interaction with another drug or herbal remedy, or a health condition such as diabetes, or heart problems. The result could be irreversible physical damage or even worse - death.

YOUR PRESCRIPTION IS YOUR PRESCRIPTION

Medications should only be taken while you are under the counsel of a medical professional. Dealing with prescription drugs can also lead to addiction, physical impairment or death, or have serious legal repercussions.

If you are concerned about your own or someone else's use of prescription medications, call to set up a confidential consultation with a counselor or health-care provider.

The most common psychiatric prescriptions include mood stabilizers, anti-depressant and anti-anxiety medications, ADHD (attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder) medications, and anti-psychotic medications. Some examples of prescription medications that can be extremely dangerous to "share" include but are not limited to:

Adderall (detroamphet and amphetamine)

Ambien (zolpidem)

Ativan (lorazepam)

Buspar (buspirone)

Celexa (citaloprim)

Dexedrine (dextro-amphetamine)

Effexor-XR (venlafexine)

Klonopin (clonazepam)

Lithium

Depakote (valproic acid)

Paxil (paroxetine)

Prozac (fluoxetine)

Risperdal (risperidone)

Ritalin (methylphenidate)

Serzone (nefazadone)

Sonata (zalepalon)

Wellbutrin-SR (bupropion)

Xanax (alprazolam)

Zoloft (sertraline)

Zyprexa (olanzapine)