

# FACT SHEET:

## PRESCRIPTION DRUG PERMANENT DROP BOX

**Unwanted, unused, or expired prescription drugs can pose a substantial risk to your community by providing the opportunity for misuse, abuse, and diversion. Establishing a permanent Rx drug drop box can offer an easy way for law enforcement agencies to address this growing threat.**

### **Drop box regulations:**

- ✓ A **full-time law enforcement officer** responsible for supervising the collection.
- ✓ Disposal is to be in accordance with local agency procedures for destruction of controlled substances.
- ✓ No illicitly manufactured drugs may be collected and stored with prescription drugs.
- ✓ Destruction of drugs must comply with all federal and state laws/regulations.



### **Considerations:**

- ✓ **Location:** How accessible is it for citizens? During what hours? Is it behind doors that are locked in the evening?
- ✓ **Security:** What measures are taken to ensure the box is secure (Bolted to location, surveillance, personnel)?
- ✓ **Policy:** What kinds of drugs will be accepted (e.g. pills, syrups, sharps etc.)? Who is responsible for emptying the box? How are the contents secured & handled? How are they disposed? Do the measures comply with all federal and state standards, including DEA, FDA, and EPA?
- ✓ **Type of box:** What kind of box will fit in the space & meet the safety/ security requirements? Will this be ordered or made to specifications? How big will the slot need to be for disposal packages?
- ✓ **Promotion:** How will you advertise the drop-off box or encourage citizens to use it? Partnering with your local substance abuse coalition can provide great support on community outreach and promotion efforts. Coordinating with state-wide efforts following drop box installation will increase community awareness.
- ✓ **Cost:** How much will the box cost? Costs of advertising, graphics, and other related charges? Possible box vendors - [www.medreturn.com](http://www.medreturn.com) or [rxdrugdropbox.org](http://rxdrugdropbox.org)



### **Resources:**

- **The Arizona Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse Initiative** - [www.RethinkRxAbuse.org](http://www.RethinkRxAbuse.org)
- **DEA Code of Federal Regulations** - <https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/21cfr/cfr/>
- [www.dumpthedrugsaz.org](http://www.dumpthedrugsaz.org)