

## !/? What You Can Do if You're Approached By Police Under Bill 6 (cont'd.)

### 4. Ask for clarification if you don't understand.

You can ask:

- "Am I being detained or arrested?"
- "Am I allowed to leave?"
- "Can you explain what you're charging me with?"

### ✗ What happens if I don't follow the direction?

You may be fined up to \$10,000, or

Arrested on the spot without a warrant, and jailed for up to 6 months

Police can also destroy or test any drugs they find

### You are protected in emergencies

You CANNOT be charged under this law if:

- You're calling 911 for yourself or someone else
- You stay at the scene to help or get help

(Even if drugs are present \*personal amount\* - this protection is part of the law.)

### Know your safer options

If police are offering to take you to a shelter, health service, or addiction service instead of charging you,

**you can ask:**

"Is this voluntary or will I be arrested if I say no?"

### After an Interaction

- Ask if you're being charged, and for what?
- Write down what happened as soon as possible:
  - Who, what, where, when, and any witnesses.
- Contact a legal clinic, harm reduction service, or outreach worker for support.



# Bill 6: Safer Municipalities Act, 2025

## What This New Law Might Mean For You



### What is this law?

### Bill 6 includes two parts:

**Schedule 1:** Restricting Public Consumption of Illegal Substances Act, 2025

**Schedule 2:** Changes to the Trespass to Property Act

Created with assistance from the  
Encampment Justice Coalition,  
and Réseau Access Network.



For more details, visit  
[www.engagebarrie.org](http://www.engagebarrie.org)

 **Free legal help (Ontario):** Legal Aid Ontario: 1-800-668-8258  
HIV & AIDS Legal Clinic Ontario (HALCO): 416-340-7790

## **Under Schedule 1, Police Can Now:**

### **Stop you from using illegal drugs in public**

You cannot consume illegal substances in public places — including tents and other structures being used as shelter if not legally allowed.

#### **The only exceptions are:**

- Inside a supervised consumption site
- If you're legally allowed to possess the substance
- If you're calling 911 or helping in an emergency (like an overdose)

### **Give you directions**

If police believe you're using illegal drugs in public, they can:

- Tell you to stop using
- Tell you to leave the area or a structure (like a tent)
- Ask for your full name, date of birth and address

### **Charge you if you don't comply**

If you don't follow police directions, you can be:

- Fined up to \$10,000
- Jailed for up to 6 months
- Or both

### **Arrest you on the spot**

Police can arrest you without a warrant if they reasonably believe you broke the law by:

- Using drugs in public
- Refusing to leave
- Refusing to provide ID

### **Seize and destroy substances**

- Police can take and destroy any illegal drugs they find near you
- They can also send them to a lab to confirm what they are

## **Under Schedule 2, There Are Now More Penalties for Trespassing**

- Courts can now give bigger fines (up to \$10,000) if:
  - You stay longer than 24 hours after being told to leave a property
  - Or the court believes you're likely to trespass again

### **\*\*\*Please Note\*\*\***

This flier was created before the mayor's declaration of an emergency.

It is our understanding that this declaration does not override provincial (or federal) legislation.

## **!?** **What You Can Do if You're Approached By Police Under Bill 6:**

### **Why am I being approached?**

Police or bylaw officers may come up to you if they believe:

- You're using drugs in a public place, including tents or structures set up in parks or on sidewalks
- You may have illegal substances nearby

### **What should I do?**

#### **1. Stay calm**

Don't run. Running or arguing may make the situation worse. Breathe and try to stay grounded.

#### **2. Listen to the officer's directions**

They may legally tell you to:

- Stop using drugs
- Leave the area
- Give your name, date of birth, and address
- If you don't follow their direction, they can fine or arrest you

#### **3. Give your name, date of birth, and address if asked**

You don't need to say anything else. You have the right to remain silent beyond that.