

# 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.**

An agency seeking to establish a permanent Rx drop box must first receive approval from the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)'s Special Agent in Charge.

For Arizona: **Douglas W. Coleman** - (602) 664-5600  
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## **DEA conditions of approval include:**

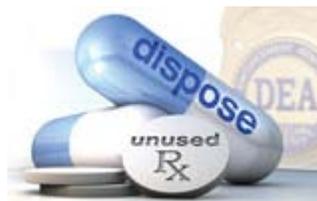
- ✓ A **full-time law enforcement officer** responsible for supervising the collection
- ✓ This officer alone must maintain control of the drugs until they are turned over for disposal
- ✓ Disposal is to be in accordance with local agency procedures for destruction of controlled substances
- ✓ No illicitly 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)? The DEA will need to approve the box location.
- ✓ **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? An internal policy must be in place and submitted to the DEA. See attached sample policy.
- ✓ **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 you local substance abuse coalition can provide great support on community outreach and promotions efforts.
- ✓ **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)

## **When submitting letter to DEA for approval, be sure it includes (all are required):**

1. The location of the box
2. Security measures to protect the box
3. Process and policy for removal, securing, and disposing of medications from the box



## **Resources:**

- **The Arizona Prescription Drug Misuse and Abuse Initiative** - [azcjc.gov/acjc.web/rx/default.aspx](http://azcjc.gov/acjc.web/rx/default.aspx)
- **DEA Code of Federal Regulations** - [www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/fed\\_reqs](http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/fed_reqs)
- **How to Host a Rx take-back event** - [www.cenpaticoaz.com/files/2012/07/ArizonaMedicationDisposalToolkit.pdf](http://www.cenpaticoaz.com/files/2012/07/ArizonaMedicationDisposalToolkit.pdf)