



Abilene Police Department

News Release

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The APD, TAP and ARCADA Provide a Location for Safe Prescription Drug Drop Off

ABILENE, TX – Citizens looking to dispose of excess and expired prescription and over-the-counter medications can now visit the safe and secure permanent drop off location at 450 Pecan in the lobby of the Law Enforcement Center, starting Tuesday, April 18, 2017, kicking off at 2:30 p.m. We invite our local media outlets to come to the LEC as we open the box for expired medication.

The Taylor Alliance for Prevention and the Abilene Regional Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse has partnered with APD to establish a permanent [MedReturn](#) drug collection program in order to reduce the supply of drugs that can potentially harm children, teens and adults.

The 2011 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), shows that more than six million Americans abuse prescription drugs.

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, "Taylor County reports to have a higher rate of opioid prescription claims when compared to the regional, state and national rates". In other words, there are simply more opioid prescriptions being issued within our area when compared to other comparative areas. Additionally, in a recent focus group conducted by the Prevention Resource Center, college students within our county described how prescription medication is easily shared for academic and/or athletic performance purposes.

This drop off box could serve as a preventative method in eliminating unused or expired opioid medication for any resident of our community. The data describes that prescription drug abuse does not discriminate.

Properly disposing of excess drugs is everyone's responsibility as a matter of public safety. More than 70 percent of young people abusing prescription pain relievers get them through friends or family, a statistic that includes raiding the family medicine cabinet. Now Abilene citizens won't have to wait for a specific take-back day to clean out their medicine cabinets.

The collection site will be open during normal business hours at the LEC. Drugs can be dropped off with no questions asked.

Respectfully,

Rick Tomlin
Public Information Coordinator

Stan Standridge, Chief of Police | 450 Pecan | Abilene, TX | 79602

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