



*Franklin Lakes Police Department  
490 DeKorte Drive  
Franklin Lakes, New Jersey 07417*

Carmine D. Pezzuti  
Chief of Police

Office (201) 891-1855

[cpezzuti@franklinlakes.org](mailto:cpezzuti@franklinlakes.org)

---

### **BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN LAKES “AMNESTY” POLICY**

The fear of criminal prosecution can cause persons who suffer from opioid drug addiction (addiction to heroin or to opiate-based drugs like Percocet or Vicodin) to elect not to seek needed assistance with their addictions. Recognizing that getting help for those in the downward spiral of drug addiction is far more important than penalizing them, the Borough of Franklin Lakes Police Department, consistent with a directive from the Bergen County Prosecutor’s Office, has implemented the following policy:

**Individuals who advise the Franklin Lakes Police Department that they are addicted to opioids and need help will not be charged with a crime or prosecuted, but will, instead, be referred to appropriate drug counseling and addiction recovery services. If such opioid-dependent individuals are referred to us by parents, children, spouses, guardians or siblings, they will be treated in the same manner as if those individuals had themselves provided the advice to us.**

In other words, the Franklin Lakes Police Department will provide whatever help it can to addicts who themselves seek help or for whom help is sought by other persons (such as parents, siblings, spouses, children, etc.). Under those circumstances the addicts will not be arrested and brought through the criminal justice system, but would, instead, be referred for appropriate drug counseling and addiction recovery services.

Since the introduction fourteen months ago to our patrol officers of Narcan, a prescription medicine that blocks the effects of opioids and can reverse an overdose, our officers have saved the lives of six overdose victims. Absent the drug, that would have been six fatalities in just over one year’s time within the borders of Franklin Lakes. The problem is here and the Police Department is committed to addressing it head on. Let’s work together, outside the criminal justice framework, to save lives.

At its meeting held on March 15, 2016, the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Franklin Lakes, by resolution, endorsed the implementation of the above Amnesty Policy