

ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT SPECIAL MEDIA RELEASE
16 July 2014

PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION DROP BOX PROGRAM

The Athens-Clarke County Police Department (ACCPD) is installing two prescription medication drop boxes to allow for the secure, safe, and environmentally friendly disposal of unwanted medications. One prescription medication drop box is currently located in the lobby at the East Precinct (Police Headquarters), 3035 Lexington Road. The second drop box will be available on August 1 in the lobby of the West Police Precinct, Georgia Square Mall, 3700 Atlanta Hwy. Both drop boxes will be available to the public between the hours of 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday (excluding holidays). For the safety of ACCPD personnel, sharps and liquids will not be accepted. All items placed in the drop boxes will be removed regularly and disposed of in accordance with ACCPD policy.

It has been reported that as many as 24% of high school students (more than 5 million young adults) have abused medications. Many commence their abuse by accessing medication prescribed for family members. What is troubling among such a population is that 20% of teens who admit they have abused prescription drugs state their first experience was before the age of 14. Twenty-seven percent mistakenly believe prescription drug abuse is safer than "street drugs" such as cocaine or ecstasy. Thus, a controlled manner for prescription medication disposal provides a needed and valuable service to the public, while also allowing parents to eliminate one source of potential drug abuse for youth.

The ACCPD is committed to assisting our citizenry and visitors in problem solving areas of interest to eliminate crime, the fear of crime, and general disorder. It is our belief that the use of prescription medication drop boxes within Athens-Clarke County will complement the department's crime reduction strategy while also providing community members an opportunity to securely dispose of unwanted prescription medications.

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