

Department of Law

Criminal Division

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Homicide Involving Controlled Substances Highlights

- Drug related deaths plague our state¹
 - o 253 Alaskans died of a drug overdose in 2021.
 - o 196 of those deaths were from opioids.
 - Synthetic opioids, like fentanyl, account for 3 out 4 opioid overdose deaths.
 - o Alaska's overdose death rate increased by 102% from 2017 to 2021.
 - o Alaska's fentanyl deaths increased by 417% from 2017 to 2021.
- Reclassifies offense: to combat the scourge drug related deaths are having on our state, this legislation reclassifies a homicide resulting from conduct involving a controlled substance from manslaughter to murder in the second degree.
 - When a person illegally manufactures or delivers a controlled substance and a person dies as a result of ingesting the drugs, the person is guilty of murder in the second degree.
- Precludes "good time" deductions for certain drug dealers
 - Good time deductions are precluded for individuals convicted of felony drug dealing.

¹ Alaska Department of Health, Division of Public Health, Drug Overdose Morality Update 2021 (2021), https://health.alaska.gov/dph/VitalStats/Documents/PDFs/DrugOverdoseMortalityUpdate_2021.pdf.