



Drug Return

The Escanaba Department of Public Safety has been gifted grant dollars from the Community Foundation for Delta County, to purchase a MedReturn. The MedReturn is a receptacle that has been placed in the Public Safety lobby, so that residents can turn in unwanted or expired household and prescription drugs. All expired or unused medications can be dropped off at the department located at 1900 3rd Avenue North, any time of the day or night.

Currently, the department participates in a drug-take back program with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), which occurs twice a year, for a four hour period. Our staff felt compelled to do more in regards to getting unwanted/unused drugs out of the home and off of the streets. Besides the obvious drug abuse issue, there are environmental issues to be concerned with when drugs are improperly disposed of. Two of the main disposal methods have been throwing the drugs into the trash or flushing them down the drain. Neither of these methods is acceptable as there are adverse environmental effects that have been documented.

Furthermore, there have been concerns expressed by citizens who are trying to do the right thing and dispose of their medications properly, but some of the procedures recommended by the DEA are cumbersome and time consuming. By utilizing the MedReturn receptacle, the process of disposing of the unwanted/unused drugs is made very easy. There is a graphic panel on the receptacle that clearly states what items can be disposed of. A few of the items that cannot be put into the MedReturn are needles and liquids, but having said that, if you need assistance in the proper disposing of non-acceptable items, we will certainly be of assistance. We don't want to turn anyone down in their effort to do the right thing.

The MedReturn will be available to everyone. The importance of proper disposal and the reduction of drug abuse cannot have territorial boundaries. Michigan is one of thirty-six states using the program, and we are one of 6 locations within the state at the time of installation.

A big thank you goes out to the Community Foundation for Delta County in supporting this project.