

Bridging the Gap

AA VOLUNTEERS SERVING YOU

WHAT THE APPLICANT NEEDS TO KNOW

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS®* is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

- 4 The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.
- 5 A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes.
- 6 Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

How we can help

Part of Bridging the Gap between release from a Correctional Facility and A.A. is the *Temporary Contact Program*, which is designed to help the alcoholic in a Correctional Facility make that transition.

One of the most “slippery” places in the journey to sobriety is between the door of the facility and the nearest A.A. group or meeting. Some of us can tell you that, even though we heard of A.A. in jail, we were too fearful to attend a meeting outside by ourselves.

A.A. experience suggests that attending meetings regularly is critical. In order to bridge the gap, A.A. members have volunteered to be temporary contacts and introduce newcomers to Alcoholics Anonymous in their home town.

The temporary contact will take a newcomer to A.A. meetings; introduce him or her to other A.A.s; insure that he or she has the phone numbers of several A.A. members, and share the experience of sponsorship and a home group.

Applicants Name (first name only if you wish)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Prov: _____

P.C. _____

Home phone: _____

Gender: M () F ()

Age: _____

used to

Facility Name: _____

Facility Telephone: _____

Discharge Date: ____ / ____ / ____

*To: The Applicant: Read This Carefully
Please be advised that the Correctional Facility named in this document on the line below;*

_____ may require you the applicant to sign a consent form providing your personal information needed for Alcoholics Anonymous to provide you with the Bridging the Gap program.

By signing this release form you are consenting to this release and that this Correctional Facility and it's staff are released from any and all liability for having initiating and fulfilling your request.

Niagara Area AA 24 hour Answering Service

1-866-311-9042

Meeting info:

www.aaniagara.org

The Temporary Contact Process

Sometime during a Corrections A.A. “in-house” meeting or during an A.A. informational meeting an A.A. member or your Correctional Facility’s Volunteer Coordinator will offer you the *Temporary Contact Request Form* printed on this pamphlet.

Fill out the form, being careful to print legibly, and return it to your discharge planner first or the A.A. running the informational meeting

The information will be sent to the A.A. Corrections Chairperson closest to your facility. They will find a volunteer who is of the same **gender** and close to your **age , if possible**. They will contact a volunteer on your behalf.

The A.A. volunteer will attempt to make contact with you before you leave the facility. They want you to know that they are waiting for your return home and are willing to accompany you to meetings once you arrive there. The temporary contact volunteer will be in touch again very shortly after you arrive home to schedule a trip to your first meeting.

This person is not meant to become you're A.A. sponsor. They facilitate your finding a sponsor through the natural process of attending A.A. meetings and engaging with new people to whom you can relate.

What the Temporary Contact Will Do

- 7 Make contact before you leave treatment or very soon afterward.
- 8 Familiarize you with A.A. meeting formats and help you know what to expect at your first meeting.
- 9 Provide you with a schedule of local meetings and provide an overview of A.A. literature that is available.
- 10 Explain about group membership and the value of having a "home group".
- 11 Explain "sponsorship" and possibly provide you with the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship".
- 12 Attend 3 to 6 meetings with you and introduce you to A.A. members so that you may get comfortable and hopefully find a sponsor.

What the Temporary Contact Will Not Do

- 13 Not become a long term transportation service or provide any form of financial support or housing.
- 14 Not provide any form of social or counseling services.
- 15 Not debate or offer opinions outside the scope of the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. They will only relate their own personal experience in recovery.
- 16 Not rate or recommend treatment facilities or programs.