

Remember Three Things:

You are not alone;
you are not the first and you
won't be the last!

Many of us were sent to our
first A.A. meeting by judges
as a result of being arrested
for drunk driving, family
disputes or some other
problem involving alcohol.
Some of us were sent here
by our employers.

If you've come to A.A. for
any of these reasons you
probably have some
questions. We hope this
pamphlet answers some
of them.

Here is what A.A. says about A.A.:

“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.”

“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. Alcoholics Anonymous 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. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.”¹

Millions of people have found recovery through the program of Alcoholics Anonymous, including many who were sent here by the court system or their employers. There are A.A. meetings in virtually every city, state and country around the globe.

While some who are sent to A.A. only attend the required number of meetings and never come back, others keep coming because they find that A.A. helps them live without alcohol.

Alcoholics Anonymous is not part of the court system. We do not work for the courts or the police department; we do not ask the courts to send people to us.

If a judge, court system, employer or school has ordered you to attend A.A. meetings it is only because they believe there is evidence that you may have a drinking problem. We had nothing to do with that decision! We are here to provide information about alcoholism and recovery from it.

A Few Pointers:

- You are a welcome guest. While most meetings will sign court papers/cards/forms, it's up to each group to decide. Remember, A.A. is not allied with the court system.
- The meeting leader or secretary who agrees to sign your court paper will probably use their initials or first name last initial. We are personally anonymous.
- In some meetings you can just put your court papers in the 7th Tradition basket that is passed around, and then pick up the signed paper after the meeting. Most meetings do believe “attendance” means staying for all the meeting.
- Many meetings are OPEN; anyone can attend. Friends, family members and children can also attend OPEN

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meetings, although not all OPEN meetings can accommodate children. CLOSED meetings are for A.A. members ONLY – that is, those people with a desire to stop drinking.

- A.A. meetings are about alcohol, not drugs.
- If you have any questions, please ask them before the meeting starts or after the meeting is over. A.A. members are always willing to help newcomers and to answer your questions.
- A.A. is an anonymous organization. The men and women who regularly attend A.A. meetings come from every conceivable walk of life and educational background. Alcohol has no respect for race, religion or social standing; alcohol is the great equalizer.
- Anonymity is the prized position of each member; please respect that privilege. While you are free to take, repeat and use any ideas or concepts that you hear at meetings, we ask that you please do not identify by name whom you see or hear in meetings.
- A.A. states that “there are no dues or fees for A.A. membership. We are fully self-supporting through our own contributions.” If you consider yourself a member, please feel free to contribute to the basket. If you do not consider yourself a member, let the basket pass you by.

- Remember: No one can tell you that you are an alcoholic. People can point out indications that you have a drinking problem: loss of control, drunk-driving arrest, lost jobs, broken relationships, the shakes, blackouts, etc. But only YOU can decide if you're actually an alcoholic. If you decide that you are, then you are in the right place!

For more information about Alcoholics Anonymous and a list of A.A. meetings in this area please contact:

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Visit our website: aancmco.org

Names & Telephone Numbers:

Keep Coming Back!

So the Court Sent You to A.A. and You Hate the Idea!



Don't Worry, It's Not All That Bad!!