

The AA Preamble

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.

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.

Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

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Singleness of Purpose

Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as “substance abuse” or “chemical dependency.” Non-alcoholic are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. AA is solely concerned with alcoholism and recovery therefrom. Anyone may attend open A.A. meetings, but only those with a *drinking* problem may attend a closed meeting.

I Am Responsible

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help

I want the hand of A.A. always to be there

And for that I am responsible.

Alcoholics Anonymous BC/Yukon Area 79 Corrections

PRE-RELEASE CONTACT PROGRAM

INFORMATION FOR VOLUNTEERS AND PROFESSIONALS

A SHARING OF EXPERIENCE

The purpose of a “Pre-Release Contact Program” is to connect the inside AA member with an AA member on the outside upon release to the community they will be residing in. Members active in this program are a group of alcoholics helping other alcoholics.

**AN AA SERVICE OPPORTUNITY
CONNECTING INSIDE AA MEMBERS TO THE AA COMMUNITY.**

Dear Correctional Administrators,

We would like to take a moment of your time to inform you about the Alcoholics Anonymous Pre-Release Contact Program which is in effect in many Correctional Facilities throughout Canada and the United States.

Briefly, an AA member on the outside corresponds with an inmate who is soon to be released. A one on one supportive relationship is established as the outside AA member guides the inmate through the days of pre-release.

On the day of release the inmate is met by the contact at his or her point of destination and the AA member takes the inmate to an AA meeting on the outside. In this way, the inmate is helped to make a sober transition to the outside world.

This program has proved beneficial; experience has shown us that an inmate who makes AA contact on the outside, prior to release, is less likely to become a ``repeater`` in the prison system.

For more information or if you are an AA member interested in volunteering for this vital service position please contact:

BC/Yukon Area 79
PO Box 42114

Vancouver, BC V5S 4R5
Area Office: 604-435-2181 (phone and fax)

Corrections Committee Chair email: corrections@bcyukonaa.org

Your information will be kept confidential.

VOLUNTEERS` INFORMATION

You are being asked to be an AA volunteer. When a soon to be released AA member contacts the Area Corrections Chair or an Intergroup Corrections Chair, we attempt to match them to an AA `Pre-Release Contact` volunteer in their community.

We call you, get the `okay` and then send the information on to you. Your job is simple. You make contact with the inmate and arrange to meet with them upon their release and take them to various meetings in the community, within 48 hours of their release.

The initial contact is generally made 3 to 6 months prior to their release so you can build a trust between you and the inmate. Upon release, you help them get acquainted with members on the outside and encourage them to join a group and find a sponsor. It is not intended that you serve as their sponsor. You introduce them to other healthy AA members, so that you are free to contact again.

Pre-Release Contact Volunteers Do`s and Don`ts

Please do:

- Be on time, well groomed, and courteous.
- After your personal introduction, remember that you are there to carry the message of AA
- Describe what is involved in working a program of recovery (meetings, home group, sponsor and the Twelve Steps).
- Respect full anonymity of inside members at all times.
- Obey all rules and regulations as outlined by the administration.

Please don`t:

- Don`t forget the importance of the ex-inmate`s first meeting being as soon as possible after release.
- Don`t become responsible for the member`s attitude, in or out of the meetings.
- Don`t carry the alcoholic, just the message.
- Don`t act in any reporting or communicating capacity regarding the member and the justice system. Tradition Twelve is vital.