

PRESENTATION: "WHAT A.A. IS AND WHAT IT IS NOT"

(TO ALCOHOLISM TREATMENT FACILITY CLIENTS)

This is an A.A. service piece, prepared by the General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous, at the suggestion of the 1991 Conference Committee on Treatment Facilities. It is meant to assist A.A. members in introducing A.A. videos or films and in making informational presentations to clients in treatment facilities.

AN A.A. INFORMATION PROGRAM

An A.A. information program is designed to help alcoholics by presenting information which should be helpful to clients of alcoholism treatment facilities.

Presentations by A.A. members generally include a video and follow an outline which explains what A.A. is and is not; where it is; and what it's like. In addition to specific requests, presentations may be set up on a regularly scheduled basis. A recurring presentation is usually coordinated through a local or area Treatment Facilities Committee. Such presentations may be adapted to meet your needs.

GUIDELINES

1. Remember that this is basic Twelfth Step work. The goals of A.A. and the treatment facility are the same: *The recovery of the alcoholic.*
2. Avoid drunkalogues. Keep comments strictly to A.A. – related matters. *Do not comment on the facility's policies or practices!*
3. Familiarize yourself with the pamphlets "[A.A. in Treatment Settings](#)," "[Bridging the Gap](#)," and "[Speaking at Non-A.A. Meetings](#)" before your presentation. Working with members of the Treatment Committee or with your group, it may be helpful for you to run through or even rehearse the presentation the first few times.
4. Provide copies of the following Conference–approved pamphlets:
 - a) "Information on Alcoholics Anonymous" (A service piece from G.S.O.)
 - b) "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship"
 - c) "A.A. at a Glance"
 - d) "Where Do I Go from Here?"

You might also provide copies of a local meeting list or directory.

5. Always remember that *you* are representing Alcoholics Anonymous. Be on time, courteous, and well groomed. For many in your audience, this will be their first impression of A.A. Make it a good one!

PRESENTATION OUTLINE (TO CLIENTS)

1. Introduction: Why you're there. (To carry the message of Alcoholics Anonymous; what it is and what it is not.)
2. Show an A.A. video, such as "Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous."
3. Read and explain the A.A. Preamble.
4. Explain, *in general*, the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.
5. Briefly describe the various types of A.A. meetings: open, closed, speaker, discussion, etc.
6. Mention the local meeting lists, the Meeting Guide app, and worldwide availability of A.A.
7. Share some ideas about what they may expect in A.A.
 - a) The Home Group
 - b) Sponsorship
 - c) Service
 - d) Fellowship
8. Tell them about A.A. literature: Books, pamphlets, videos, etc., and where they may be obtained.
9. Outline temporary contact program options.
10. Always try to leave time for a general question and answer session. *Stick to A.A. and your own experience. Steer discussion away from therapeutic "issues."*
11. Thank you and close.

For additional information on Alcoholics Anonymous, the information Program, and how we can help...

Contact: Your Local or Area Treatment Committee
Your Local Intergroup or Central Office
Or: General Service Office
Grand Central Station
P.O Box 459
New York, NY 10163
www.AA.org

If you have any comments or suggestions, please contact the Treatment Desk at G.S.O. using TF@aa.org.

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