

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 marriages or relationships, blackouts, the shakes, etc., etc.—but only **YOU** can decide if you are an alcoholic. If **you** decide that you are, then **you're** in the right place.

ONE FINAL NOTE: We are probably a lot happier to be here than you are. If you stick around long enough, you'll find out why.

UNITY—SERVICE—RECOVERY

KEEP COMING BACK!

Names and Telephone Numbers:

Alcoholics Anonymous



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

**Don't Worry, It's
Not All That Bad.**

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. A.A. is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization, or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses or opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.”

Millions of people have found recovery through A.A., including many who have been sent by the courts or their employers. There are A.A. meetings in virtually every country in the world, from Australia to Zambia, and from Ireland to Russia.

A.A. 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. When people do show up with court papers, we are not responsible for making sure they stay sober.

If a judge, court, school, or employer has sent you to A.A. meetings, it is because they believe there is evidence that you may have a drinking problem. We had nothing to do with this decision, but A.A. does provide information about alcoholism to interested parties.

BUT IF YOU DO COME, please remember a few points:

- You are a welcome guest.
- While most meetings will sign court cards, some won't. It is up to each individual meeting to decide. Since A.A. is not allied with the court system, A.A. is not required to do the court's work.
- If a meeting leader or secretary agrees to sign your court card, they will probably just sign their first name or use their initials. We are personally anonymous. We are not court employees.
- Many meetings are OPEN. Anyone can attend. Some meetings are CLOSED. Closed meetings are for members, and those who have a desire to stop drinking. Please do not attend closed meetings if you do not have a desire to stop drinking.
- If you have any questions, please ask them before the meeting starts, during a meeting break, or when the meeting is over. You can always find someone willing to talk to you and answer your questions.

- The men and women who voluntarily attend regular A.A. meetings are alcoholics. They are factory workers, doctors, homemakers, lawyers, ex-convicts, construction workers, writers, actors, cab drivers, engineers, nurses, students, sales people, teachers, retirees, unemployed, executive, etc.. Some make more money than you do. Some don't. Some have college degrees. Some dropped out of grade school. Some are actually smarter than you. Some aren't. And yes, some of them really are rocket scientists.
- A.A. is an anonymous organization. While you are free to take, repeat, and use any ideas or concepts that you hear at a meeting, please do not identify whom you heard or saw there.
- If you decide that you are an alcoholic, or have a desire to stop drinking, and that you want to be a part of A.A., then you are automatically a member.
- A.A. states that: “There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership. We are self-supporting through our own contributions.” If you consider yourself a member of A.A., feel free to contribute to the basket that is passed around to cover room rent and expenses. If you do not consider yourself a member, please do not contribute.