

## QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BOARD MOTION

### **Al-Anon members involved in Alateen service:**

**Q.** What is the definition of an Al-Anon member involved in Al-Anon service?

**A.** *An Al-Anon member involved in Alateen service is an Al-Anon member who is directly responsible for Alateens while being of service to Alateen. Each area will more clearly define what roles that involves.*

**Q.** In our Alateen meeting we sometimes do not have enough Sponsors and the Alateens request “Instant Sponsors” from the Al-Anon meeting. Does this mean that we cannot have “Instant Sponsors”?

**A.** *No. However, the “Instant Sponsors” must have completed the Al-Anon Member Involved In Alateen Service form and met the area requirements. Al-Anon groups may want to support Alateen by encouraging several Al-Anon members from the group to complete the area requirement process.*

**Q.** What if we are having a fundraising event, such as a potluck or dance for Alateens? Does everyone who attends have to meet the area requirements?

**A.** *The area will need to determine safety and behavioral requirements necessary for such events. Anyone being of service to Alateen would need to meet the area requirements. Members participating by attending a dinner or dance would not need to meet the area requirements as they are not responsible for the Alateens.*

### **Regarding the certification and registration processes:**

**Q.** What is certification? How can the area certify someone’s behavior?

**A.** *Certification is a formal acknowledgement by the area that the member has met the area requirements. The area is NOT certifying that member’s future performance or behavior; only that the member has met the area’s requirements for being of service to Alateen.*

**Q.** What about members of AA, can they be certified? What is the role of AA helpers in the future?

**A.** *AA members who are also Al-Anon members and meet their area’s requirements can be certified. At the 2002 World Service Conference (WSC,) a motion passed that requires Alateen Sponsors to be active members of Al-Anon for at least two years in addition to any time spent in the Alateen program. As of the 2002 WSC, there are no longer any AA assistants.*

**Q.** How will areas inform the WSO that an Al-Anon member has met the requirements?

**A.** *An Al-Anon Member Involved In Alateen Service form is being developed by the WSO. This form replaces the Alateen Sponsor Questionnaire form. Areas develop a process where Al-Anon members involved in Alateen service complete the form and the area’s authorized signature indicates that the member has met the area requirements. The form is then sent to the WSO through the area’s process.*

**Q.** Who is the area authorized signature on the Al-Anon Member Involved In Alateen Service form?

**A.** *The area authorized signature is an Al-Anon member determined by the area. The authorized signature can be one or more members that the area designates as authorized to sign the form per the area’s process.*

**Q.** Is the area supposed to send this new form to all current Sponsors? If so, how will the areas know who the Sponsors are?

**A.** *Yes. All Al-Anon members involved in Alateen service in the area will need to complete the form. One of the main problems regarding Alateen meeting information is that many meetings have not updated their Sponsor information. The Alateen Group Sponsor Questionnaire form was developed in 1999 and updated in 2002; however, many of the Alateen meetings that registered prior to 1999 did not provide the Sponsor information at all and many Alateen meetings did not provide updated information when Sponsors changed.*

*Area Group Records Coordinators receive lists of all Al-Anon and Alateen meetings registered in the area on a biannual basis. In addition to those mailings, as a one-time start up process in order to assist areas with implementing the Board motion, Alateen Coordinators will be sent a list of Alateen Groups with active or suspended registrations with the WSO. A separate list of Sponsors known to the WSO for each area will also be sent. Area Alateen Coordinators will receive the list via e-mail by May 2004. The area will then need to determine who the additional Sponsors are in the area.*

**Q.** What is the certification process for an Al-Anon member involved in Alateen service?

**A.** *Each area can develop a process that works best for their area.*

**Q.** What about the Alateen Group registration process?

**A.** *The area would also develop a process for Alateen group registrations.*

#### **Regarding area requirements:**

**Q.** My area is in the beginning stage of developing area requirements. Does the WSO have any samples from other areas?

**A.** *The WSO has not yet received area requirements or area processes from any area since the Board Motion. On file at the WSO are several guidelines and/or requirements that areas had either passed in prior years or were in the process of voting on last year. A document compiling this information is again included in the Alateen Coordinator mailing. Copies of the original area guidelines are available by postal mail upon request.*

**Q.** My area is working on developing area requirements. After they are approved by the assembly, can my area revise our requirements in the future?

**A.** *Yes. Your area can review the area requirements and revise them as long as they meet the Minimum Board requirements. The WSO would like to receive a copy of any revisions so that it can share your experience if another area requests it.*

**Q.** The Board Motion states that the area must have safety and behavioral requirements for all Alateen members and Al-Anon members involved in Alateen service. Are we expected to certify Alateen members?

**A.** *No, but areas do have responsibility for appropriate Alateen safety and behavior at all events where Alateen participation is requested.*

#### **Regarding the minimum safety and behavioral requirements:**

**Q.** Does a felony conviction of more than twenty years ago disqualify a member? What if the conviction had nothing to do with children?

**A.** *All felony convictions, regardless of type of crime or when convicted, disqualify a member from being of service with direct contact and care of Alateens.*

**Q.** If my area decides on background checks, will all Al-Anon members involved in Alateen service (even those who may not be group Sponsors) need to comply?

**A.** *This is left to the autonomy of the area. All Al-Anon adults in Alateen service must meet the minimum requirements. Areas can add other requirements for certain groups if it so chooses.*

**Q.** What about non-members, such as AA parents or relatives, who may be attending Alateen events?

**A.** *If an area determines that an event, such as a campout or a convention, is an Alateen event and open, there should be an area plan that specifies the role of the non-member (such as an AA speaker). Alateens should be under the care of Al-Anon members involved in Alateen service at all times.*

**Q.** Item number six of the Minimum Safety and Behavioral Requirements states that area requirements must be reviewed by local counsel. Can this person be an Al-Anon member?

**A.** *Yes, they could be selected to conduct the review. A legal opinion should be in writing, otherwise there is no recourse if given bad or incomplete advice.*

**Q.** Can the legal counsel be a member of AA or a relative of an Al-Anon member? Would this be a violation of the Seventh Tradition?

**A.** *They can charge at a reduced rate if they do so for other not-for-profit groups. Even attorneys that offer pro bono services to community organizations should render a written opinion of the requirements (see above answer).*