

## Questions about implementation of Board Alateen Action

### Minimum Safety and Behavioral Requirements:

- Q. Part of item 1.d of the Minimum Safety and Behavioral Requirements states “and have not demonstrated emotional problems which could result in harm to Alateen members”. Some Al-Anon members have in the past demonstrated emotional problems which could have resulted in harm to their children or others. Are these members eligible to be Al-Anon members involved in Alateen service?**
- A. The requirement refers to current emotional problems. Occasionally a member in service to Alateen may, due to personal difficulties, be having emotional problems that impact their ability to be of service to Alateen. The area may decide to ask that member to step aside as Sponsor or Al-Anon member involved in Alateen service for a while.
- Q. Are signed parental permission forms required for Alateens to attend Alateen meetings?**
- A. Areas are required to have procedures for parental permission and medical care when applicable. Usually “when applicable” would refer to an event outside of the meeting such as when a Sponsor or other Al-Anon member involved in Alateen service is providing transportation for Alateens, or for attendance at an Alateen event, convention, or conference. It is up to the area to determine when the parental permission and medical forms are needed. Many schools require permission slips for Alateens to attend meetings during school hours.
- Q. What about Alateens whose parents are not aware that they are attending an Alateen meeting or event? Their parents and/or guardians may be active alcoholics.**
- A. There may be times when you wish to give an Alateen a ride to the meeting. Always make sure that a parent or legal guardian knows that you are transporting the child. If the parent is unaware of the child’s attendance at meetings, advise the child that you will honor his/her confidentiality, but that other transportation will need to be arranged. You could face serious difficulties if a parent or legal guardian discovers you are transporting a child without permission and potential liability if there is an automobile accident with a child in the vehicle. Refusing to give a ride can be difficult. It may be the only way a child from an alcoholic home can get to the meeting. We want so much to help, but our Al-Anon program helps us gain the wisdom to know what is best for everyone involved.

One good way to avoid the common problem of young people having trouble getting transportation to Alateen meetings is to sponsor an Alateen group at a school. This kind of group also allows the program to be available to young people who still live with the disease at home.

### **The fourth requirement that area requirements must prohibit conduct contrary to applicable laws sounds like an outside issue. Should we be discussing laws at our meeting?**

- A. Alateen groups, Al-Anon members involved in Alateen service, and areas have a responsibility to be knowledgeable about the laws that affect them. Knowing and obeying the law is not an outside issue; however some discussions, such as in regards to changing a law, would be outside issues. Al-Anon and Alateen members are not above the law.

## **Alateen Literature:**

**Q. What can areas use for Sponsor training now that *A Guide to Alateen Sponsorship- An Unforgettable Adventure (P-86)* has been discontinued?**

**A.** Portions of P-86 can be used until new Alateen literature can be published. A bookmark indicating the usable portions of the latest edition of P-86 has been sent to each Al-Anon and Alateen group. Area Alateen Coordinators have also been sent a supply of the bookmark. The bookmark can also be photocopied.

## **Regarding the Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service form:**

**Q. Is the Area Authorized Signature guaranteeing that the Al-Anon member will follow the safety and behavioral requirements?**

**A.** No. The Area Authorized Signature is confirming that to the best of his/her knowledge the Al-Anon member involved in Alateen service meets the area's requirements. The Area Authorized Signature is not taking responsibility for the behavior of the other member.

**Q. Can the Area Authorized Signature be sued if the Al-Anon member involved in Alateen service harms an Alateen?**

**A.** Anyone can be sued for anything. However, when the Area Authorized Signature takes diligent care in confirming that the member has met the area requirements, the likelihood of being sued is minimal and, if sued, the likelihood of damages being awarded is even smaller.