

# ALATEEN QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

## JULY 2004

### **Minimum Requirements:**

- Q. Some members in my area do not like the wording in item 1.d of the Minimum Safety and Behavioral Requirements. Can my area change the wording?**
- A.** *The wording of the Minimum Safety and Behavioral Requirements was affirmed at the 2004 World Service Conference and should not be changed as to do so would create confusion. The wording in the Motion will be the wording used in future Alateen literature. Some area concerns regarding the wording have been addressed in other question and answer documents – such as clarification of definition of emotional problems. Areas can respond to members concerns through communication and education.*
- Q. My area is thinking about increasing the age requirement for Sponsors to age 23 and keep the age for other Al-Anon members involved in Alateen service at 21. Is this okay?**
- A.** *Yes, there can be different requirements for different service positions as long as all meet the Minimum Safety and Behavioral Requirements.*
- Q. There is some confusion in my area about what the legal counsel should be looking for when reviewing our area requirements. What should we be asking them to do?**
- A.** *Local legal counsel should be asked to determine if your requirements meet your local (state, province, city, etc.) laws. They can also provide information on specific items in the requirements- for example in some areas the medical release form must be notarized in order to be valid. Areas may also have laws regarding transportation of minors, smoking, etc. that the legal counsel can advise the area about- see item number four of the requirements.*
- Q. If our area does not adopt a process to put in place the Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements will we still be able to use the Al-Anon name?**
- A.** *It depends on the circumstances, if an area tries to circumvent the Alateen Motion by changing the name of the Alateen meetings and still having the meetings they could lose the use of the Al-Anon name. An area that only has one or two Alateen meetings that votes to eliminate having Alateen meetings altogether would not be circumventing the Motion and would not lose use of the Al-Anon name. The Alateens in that area would then attend regular Al-Anon meetings.*

## **Registering Alateen groups while developing area requirements:**

**Q. My area has not yet voted on the requirements. Can new Alateen Groups still be registered with the WSO?**

**A.** *As of this Coordinator mailing the WSO has not received the final area requirements and process for Al-Anon members involved in Alateen service or Alateen Group registration process from any area. One area- Maine- has requested that new groups from that area not be registered until the area can develop their requirements and processes. The WSO is honoring that request and will not register any Alateen groups in Maine. Until an area submits their requirements and processes, the WSO will register new groups from all areas, except Maine, under the old procedure- submitting a registration form and Alateen Group Sponsor Questionnaire form. Any new Alateen groups registered will still need to meet their area requirements and submit the new forms by 12/31/04.*

*Once the area submits their requirements and processes, the new Alateen registration and Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service forms will be used. These forms have been e-mailed and postal mailed to the area Alateen Coordinators.*

**Q. How will areas know if new Alateen groups have been registered?**

**A.** *Effective July 1, 2004 Alateen groups registering under the old procedure will be sent a letter from Member Services/Alateen letting them know they need to contact the area for information regarding area requirements and processes and that they will still need to meet the area requirements by 12/31/04. A copy will be sent to the Area Alateen Coordinator and Delegate. This is in addition to the letter Group Records sends to all new groups with the Group binder. The Alateen Coordinator and Delegate are also sent copies of the Group Records letter.*

## **New Alateen Registration and Al-Anon Member Involved In Alateen Service Forms:**

**Q. Can my area put the new Alateen registration and Al-Anon Members in Alateen Service form up on the area Web site?**

**A.** *The new Alateen Group Registration form and Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service form will be used by the area after the area has developed their requirements and submitted their processes to the WSO. Areas can distribute the forms in any manner that is convenient, including on the area Web site.*