

This AA Orientation was created by Bob M. of Victory in the mid 1990s as a Probation Orientation.

It includes letters to send and an outline of what to do and say orientations.

May 30, 2002

To:

Copy:

Subject: Meeting to discuss Orientation for Court Appointees to Alcoholics Anonymous
for _____.

As per our telephone conversation, please plan to attend a meeting to discuss subject matter on DATE AND TIME. The location of the meeting will be:

Please feel free to bring with you those employees directly associated with the court appointees, such as Probation and Parole Officers, Drug Court Coordinators and Counselors, and Addictive Behavior Coordinators and Counselors.

If you or your representative cannot attend this meeting, please contact me @ xxx-xxx-xxxx.

Thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

Regards,

Xxxx x.

Committee Chairman

Public Information & Cooperation with The Professional Community

Alcoholics Anonymous, District _____

Orientation Meeting

SUGGESTED
ORIENTATION

COURT APPOINTEES
Your City, Your State

1. Introduction:

I want to welcome you to Alcoholics Anonymous; we don't care who you are or what brought you here, we just want you to know your Welcome. We also realize that some of you might not want to be here; most of us didn't want to come either.

Most of us were force To come for some reason or other; our employers, our wives or parents, the courts or treatment centers, or alcohol had beaten us So badly that we knew we couldn't survive in society much longer. We chose to stay involved in Alcoholics Anonymous because it taught us a way to live that we are happy, joyous, and free today. Even though you may not want to be here, please don't come and interrupt our meetings, because some of the sickest people in the world come here; I know because I'm one Of them!

- 2.** Explain that you are not speaking for A.A., only your opinion as an individual.
Do your best!

3. Read and explain the A.A. Preamble.

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 nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

4. Describe types of meetings:

open\closed, speaker, discussion, smoking and non-smoking, etc.

5. Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions

(explain them, not individually, but as a whole)

6. Where are A.A. meetings located

Review the Meeting Schedule

Explain symbols

- 7. Verification of attendance at A.A. meetings:**
- a) Please give your verification paper to the meeting chairman before the meeting begins. The meeting chairman will sign the verification paper during the meeting and make available to you after the meeting is over. These instructions apply to “Open Meetings”
 - b) Each group of A.A. is autonomous and may elect not to sign verification papers at closed meetings. Closed meetings are for Alcoholics only. You may want to check with the meeting chairman before the meeting begins. These instructions apply to “Closed Meetings”
- 8. Describe what to expect in A.A.:**
- a) what happens during different types of meetings
 - b) sponsorship
 - c) fellowship: before, during, and after meetings
 - d) describe "Big Book" and how it is used by A.A. members
- 9. Questions and answers**
- 10. Close by showing appreciation for coming and again offer assistance to anyone who thinks they may have a problem with alcohol.**

**THE TWELVE TRADITIONS
Of
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

- 1. Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends on A.A. unity.**
- 2. For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority - a loving God as he may express himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.**
- 3. The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking.**
- 4. Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.**
- 5. Each group has but one primary purpose - to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.**
- 6. An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.**
- 7. Every A.A. group should be fully self supporting, declining outside contributions.**
- 8. Alcoholics anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.**
- 9. A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.**
- 10. Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into any public controversy.**
- 11. Our public relation policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio and films.**
- 12. Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities**

**The Twelve Steps
of
Alcoholics anonymous**

- 1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol...that our lives had become unmanageable.**
- 2. Came to believe that a power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.**
- 3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understand him.**
- 4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.**
- 5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.**
- 6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.**
- 7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.**
- 8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.**
- 9. Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.**
- 10. Continued to take personal inventory, and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.**
- 11. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understand Him, praying only for the knowledge of his will for us, and the power to carry that out.**
- 12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.**

Agenda

- **Welcome**
- **Why we're here**
 - a. **The perceived problem**
 - b. **The real problem**
- **Proposed solution to problem**
- **Open Discussion**
- **Location, Dates & Time for Orientation Meetings**
- **Adjourn**

Agenda for Presentation to Probation Officers
(Speaker's Notes)

- **Welcome**
- **Why we're here**
 - a. **The perceived problem**

Court appointees are coming to A.A. meetings without any understanding of what the program is all about. They come because they chose A.A. rather than go to jail. Their perception is that A.A. is a service organization to the Justice System in the Parish. Their perception is that we don't want them there either.
 - b. **The real problem**

The real problem is the lack of communications and cooperation between us (A.A. & The Justice System).
- **Proposed solution to problem**
 - a. **Orientation Meeting for all court appointees before attending their first A.A. Meeting**
 - b. **Present orientation meeting exactly as you would to new Appointee**
- **Open Discussion**
- **Location, Dates & Time for Orientation Meetings**

Location
Dates and Times

- **Adjourn**

Orientation Meeting Schedule

All court appointees to Alcoholics Anonymous are requested to attend an Orientation Meeting before attending their first regular A.A. meeting. The location, dates, and time of the meetings are shown below.

- **Location, Dates & Time for Orientation Meetings:**

**Location
Dates and Times**