

A
Alcoholics,
their
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Families,
and the
J
Judicial
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System

Al-Anon and Alateen Can Help

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS 
hope for families & friends of alcoholics

The judicial system frequently encounters cases where alcoholism in the family is directly involved. One of the most recognizable is domestic violence. Other crimes in which alcoholism may be a contributing factor include: assault, homicide, fraud, child abuse, forgery, and a variety of vehicular crimes.

The judicial system can help whether the crime is committed by the alcoholic or by a member of his or her family,

and Al-Anon and Alateen
can be a resource for your court.

Al-Anon is a mutual support program for families and friend of alcoholics. Alateen, part of Al-Anon, is for the teenage members of the family who are affected by another's drinking. Both Al-Anon and Alateen are:

- free of charge
- confidential and anonymous
- spiritual (not religious)
- non-professional

When the alcoholic is the defendant, you can help the family by referring them to Al-Anon when the drinker is:

- denying or "covering up" a drinking problem
- being referred for professional alcoholism treatment or to Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)
- experiencing dramatic behavioral shifts due to drinking
- making the family's situation worse by drinking

When a family member (a non-alcoholic) is the defendant, you can help by referring the defendant to Al-Anon when the accused has:

- lost control of his/her behavior because of someone else's drinking
- a family situation that has worsened due to alcoholism
- children who are being abused, or neglected due to alcoholism in the home

If one or more of the above situations are applicable, you can suggest that:

- the defendant (non-alcoholic) or the defendant's adult family members attend at least six Al-Anon meetings to determine whether or not Al-Anon can help.
- younger family members (non-alcoholics) attend Alateen.

"The family situation is bound to improve as we apply the Al-Anon ideas."
(from the Al-Anon Suggested Welcome)
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At Al-Anon/Alateen group meetings, family members can begin to improve their own attitudes and behaviors. They can benefit from contact with others who have similar problems, and learn how alcoholism has impacted their lives.

Al-Anon Family Groups cooperate with the judicial system in the following ways:

- Provide local meeting schedules and literature
- Meet with you to provide additional information about our program
- Conduct informational meetings or workshops for your staff
- Invite you to attend our "open" meetings

To contact Al-Anon/Alateen and to obtain more information, call :

- the Al-Anon information service listed in your local telephone directory
- the toll-free number below between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. ET, Monday - Friday.

888-4AL-ANON (888-425-2666)

Visit the AFG, Inc. World Wide Web site at
www.al-anon.alateen.org

Use our fax numbers
757 563-1655 US • 613-723-0151 Canada
or e-mail wso@al-anon.org
to request a free, introductory literature packet.

Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.
1600 Corporate Landing Parkway,
Virginia Beach, VA 23454-5617
(757) 563-1600

National Public Information Canada
Capital Corporate Centre, 9 Antares Drive, Suite 245
Ottawa, ON, K2E 7V5 Canada
(613) 723-8484

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