

2016 Halt Line Guidelines

What you need to be a volunteer:

*One year of sobriety is suggested because the first year needs focus on recovery before such service.

*Touch-tone phone service.

*Meeting lists (we suggest District 26 and 25 Worcester Area). These are available from Worcester Area Intergroup and are available on the Website “www.aaworcester.org”

*3 or more hours of time during the week that you will be available to answer calls. This is done from your own home or cell phone. You need not have to answer as A.A. you can simply answer and when asked say you are “Answering for Worcester Area Intergroup, how can I help you”

What the Halt Line IS:

One alcoholic talking to another alcoholic --- Isn't that what A.A. is all about?

One might:

*Give out meeting time and location information.

*Talk and/or listen to a sober alcoholic in danger of picking up a drink.

*Talk and/or listen to a sober alcoholic who is visiting the area.

*Talk to a “drunk”. You may be the link in the chain that could save their life.

*Refer a caller to the Intergroup Office and inform them of the office hours.

(This might involve business calls, literature orders, speaker information, etc.)

What the Halt Line IS NOT: (In keeping with our traditions)

The Halt Line is not a taxi service...

Do not feel that you have to arrange rides for callers.

If need be, suggest the person *call back during office hours*.

Intergroup has a list of people willing to do twelfth step work.

It is not a referral service...

We do not refer to or give any specific treatment facilities or medical centers even if you know of them.

We are not allied with any other group or organization, therefore (traditions again)

We do not give out meeting information for other 12 step programs such as Al-Anon, NA, ACOA, OA, etc.

Advise callers that these organizations have their own phone services along with the latest information to help those in need of their services.

We are not a counseling service...

We do not give medical advice or opinions.

If a person is ill, it is more appropriate for them to contact their family doctor. If it is an emergency, the caller himself should call 911 for an ambulance. Remember that the person going through withdrawal from alcohol can suffer a number of life threatening symptoms. It is very important to remember that we live in a litigious society --- the Halt Line represents A.A. --- we do not want to leave A.A. open to lawsuits.

What will happen:

You will receive Logging Instructions from the chair person and are responsible to log in at your scheduled time, then call again to be certain it went through. The calls are then forwarded from the Intergroup Office to your home or cell phone. **This is done at no expense to you and your number does not appear to the caller.** If you are unable to cover your scheduled time, please call the Halt Line Chairperson ASAP in advance to try to find a replacement to cover. The very worst that can happen is that the call will go the office phone line Voice Mail will pickup.