

Proof of Attendance

If you've been asked to provide proof of attendance (sometimes called a court card), please understand that A.A. is not allied with the court system — ***we are not required to sign court cards or attendance slips.***

Each group decides whether or not it will sign court cards. You may want to arrive at a meeting a few minutes early and ask if the secretary will sign your court card or attendance slip.

If someone does agree to sign your attendance slip, they will probably just write their first name or initials, the name of the meeting, and the date. Some meetings may use a pre-printed stamp with the name of the meeting.

A.A. and the Courts

- A.A. is not part of the court system. We do not work for the courts or the police department.
- A.A. does not “recruit”. We do not ask the courts to send people to meetings. You are a member only when you say you are.

Safety

Love and tolerance of others is our code. Safety, however, is important to the functioning of the group. No A.A. group has to tolerate illegal behavior. All activity at an A.A. meeting is subject to the same laws that apply outside the meeting. Anonymity is not a shield that protects inappropriate or criminal behavior.

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If you would like to find a meeting near you or have questions, please call the Worcester Area Intergroup. Calls are answered 24 hours a day.

Visit the website for A.A. meeting schedules and maps, events, and recovery literature and resources.

Worcester Area Intergroup

508 752 9000

aaWorcester.org

Boston Central Service

617 426 9444

aaBoston.org

Western MA Intergroup

413 532 2111

WesternMAaa.org

*SO,
YOU'VE BEEN SENT TO*

**ALCOHOLICS
ANONYMOUS**

*... AND YOU ARE NOT THRILLED
ABOUT THE IDEA*

*IT MAY NOT BE AS BAD
AS YOU IMAGINE*

*MANY OF US
WERE IN
THE SAME SITUATION*

What Is Alcoholics Anonymous? Here Is What A.A. Says About A.A

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.

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Millions of people have found recovery in A.A., including many sent by professionals. There are A.A. meetings in virtually every country in the world. While some attend only the required meetings and never come back, others do come back because they find A.A. helps them to live, day by day, without alcohol.

So You Were Sent To A.A.

Many of us were first sent to A.A. by judges, employers, counselors, or some other authority, as a result of being arrested for drunken driving, family disputes, or some other problem involving alcohol. If you've come to an A.A. meeting at the direction (or suggestion) of someone else, you probably have some questions.

A.A. meetings fall into two categories, Open and Closed:

- ***Open meetings*** are for anyone interested in our program of recovery for themselves, for a loved one, or for purely academic reasons.
- ***Closed meetings*** are for alcoholics and those with a desire to stop drinking.

Being "sent" to A.A. does not make you an alcoholic.

People may point out indications that you have a drinking problem — loss of control, driving under the influence, arrests, lost jobs, broken marriages or relationships, blackouts, the shakes, etc. Only you can decide that you are an alcoholic. If you think that you are an alcoholic then we encourage you to keep coming back.

What to Expect at an A.A. Meeting

You are a welcome guest; please arrive prior to the meeting start time.

We ask that you conduct yourself in a civil and responsible manner. Do not use your phone (whether talking, texting, or browsing), or have side conversations. They are disruptive and distract others from hearing the A.A. message. Alcoholism is a matter of life and death for us.

If you have any questions, feel free to ask before or after the meeting. Find someone at the meeting to talk to and who will answer your questions. Or, just call us at 508-752-9000.

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of our traditions. While you are free to repeat and share any of the ideas or suggestions that you hear at a meeting, please do not identify anyone you heard or saw by name. We will do the same for you.

There are no dues for A.A. membership, but we are self-supporting, so we pass a basket to pay our expenses. By putting money in the basket we take responsibility for our own and other's recovery.