

**REMEMBER:** No one can tell you that you are an alcoholic. People can point out indications that you have a drinking problem — loss of control, drunk driving arrests, lost jobs, broken marriages or relationships, blackouts, the shakes, etc. — but only you can decide if you are actually an alcoholic. If you decide that you are, then you are in the right place.

**ONE FINAL NOTE:** We are probably a lot happier to be here than you are. If you stick around long enough, you'll find out why.

***Please ask someone for a schedule of area meetings.***

**KEEP COMING BACK!**

***Names and Telephone Numbers***

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**A.A. Area 27 District 6**  
**24 Hour A.A. Hotline: (318) 357-1331**  
**[www.aanatchitoches-district6.org](http://www.aanatchitoches-district6.org)**



God grant me the  
**Serenity**  
to accept the things I  
cannot change...  
**Courage** to  
change the things I can  
and **Wisdom** to  
know the difference...

## **So The Court Sent You to A.A. And You Hate the Idea.**

### **Don't Worry, It's Not All That Bad.**

**REMEMBER THREE THINGS:** You are not alone, you are not the first, and you won't be the last.

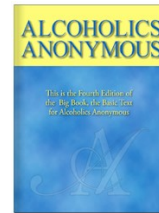


Many of us were sent to our first A.A. meeting by judges as a result of being arrested for drunk driving, family disputes, or some other problem involving alcohol. Some of us were sent here by our employers.

If you've come to A.A. for any of these reasons, you probably have some questions. We hope this pamphlet answers some of them. If you can't find the answer, feel free to ask someone.

#### **HERE IS WHAT A.A. SAYS ABOUT A.A.**

*“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.”*

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## WHY ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS?

Millions of people have found recovery through A.A., including many who were sent by the courts or by their employers. There are A.A. meetings in virtually every country in the world, from Australia to Zambia, and from Ireland to Russia.

While some who are sent to A.A. attend the required number of meetings and never come back, others keep coming back because they find that A.A. helps them to live without alcohol.

Alcoholics Anonymous is not part of the court system. We do NOT work for the courts, or for Corrections or Police departments. We do not ask the courts to send people to us. When people do show up with courts papers, we are not responsible for making sure they are sober.

If a judge, court, school or employer has sent you to A.A. meetings, it is because they believe there is evidence that you may have a drinking problem. We had nothing to do with that decision, but A.A. does provide information about ALCOHOLISM and staying sober to interested parties.

## BUT, IF YOU DO COME TO MEETINGS, PLEASE REMEMBER A FEW POINTS:

- △ You are a welcomed guest.
- △ While most meetings will sign court cards/papers/forms\*, some won't. It's up to each individual group meeting to decide it's policy. Since A.A. is not allied with the court system, A.A. is not required to do the court's work. If you arrive at the meeting early, you can ask the secretary or chairman about signing your paper\* (\*Note that court cards/papers/forms refers to anything you are required by any authority or agency to have signed, providing proof of attendance at an A.A. meeting to take back to that agency or authority.)
- △ If a meeting leader, chairman, or secretary agrees to sign your paper\*, he or she will probably just sign a first name or use initials. We are personally anonymous in A.A.



- △ We are not court employees.
- △ In some meetings you can just put your paper\* in the 7th Tradition basket that is passed around, and then pick up the signed paper\* after the meeting. Most meetings do believe "attendance" means staying for the entire meeting.
- △ Many meetings are OPEN. Anyone can attend. Some meetings are CLOSED. Closed meetings are for A.A. members, and for those who have a desire to stop drinking. Please do not attend Closed meetings if you do not consider yourself an A.A. member, or do not have a desire to stop drinking. Family members can attend Open meetings. Please do not bring children to Closed meetings.
- △ If you have any questions, please ask them before the meeting starts, during a meeting break, or when the meeting is over. You can always find someone willing to talk with you and answer your questions.
- △ The men and women who voluntarily attend regular A.A. meetings are alcoholics. They are also factory workers, doctors, homemakers, lawyers, ex-convicts, construction workers, writers, actors, cab drivers, engineers, nurses, students, sales people, teachers, retirees, unemployed, executives, etc. Some make more money than you do. Some don't. Some have college degrees. Some dropped out of grade school. Some are actually smarter than you are. Some aren't. And yes, some of them really are rocket scientists.
- △ A.A. is an anonymous organization. While you are free to take, repeat and use any ideas or concepts that you hear at meetings, we ask that you please do not identify who you hear or see here.
- △ If you decide that you are an alcoholic, or have a desire to stop drinking, and that you want to be a part of A.A., then you are automatically a member.
- △ A.A. states, through our 7th Tradition, that: "There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership. We are fully self-supporting through our own contributions." If you consider yourself a member of A.A., feel free to contribute to the basket that is passed around to cover room rent and expenses. If you do not consider yourself a member, please do not contribute to the basket.

