

## Alateen Training Module IV

### Part B: Challenges in Alateen

Conflict

Alateens in difficult situations ("Tough Stuff")

Interactions with parents

Public Outreach—building attendance

Broken Anonymity

Finances

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## Dealing with Conflict

Conflict can occur in any group, and dealing with it can make the group and the individuals involved stronger.

There may be conflict between the Alateen members and an Alateen Group Sponsor, or between two Group Sponsors or two Alateens.



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## Conflict between Alateens and an Alateen Group Sponsor

An open discussion in the group may be helpful. All parties practice the Twelfth Tradition by placing principles above personalities.

If the Alateen are having difficulty with a Group Sponsor, the Group Sponsor may be asked to leave the room as long as there is another AMIAS present.

***Remember, the meeting is for the Alateens!***

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## Conflict between Alateens and an Alateen Group Sponsor

The group might ask the District Representative (DR), Alateen Coordinator, AISL or another AMIAS to participate in the discussion. An impartial party may provide a new perspective.

The DR or Area Alateen Coordinator may also help the group take a group inventory.

In order to resolve the conflict, the Alateen Group Sponsor may step down for a time.

***Remember, the meeting is for the Alateens!***

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## Conflict between Alateen Group Sponsors

**Some conflicts are personal in nature:**

Personality conflicts

Differences in style of Sponsoring

Dominating the group and other Alateen Group Sponsors

**Use your resources:**

Talk to your District Representative (DR)

Talk to your Alateen Service Sponsor

Alateen Coordinator, other trusted servants



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## Alateen Group Sponsors in conflict with the Area

**Some conflicts are with the Area Alateen Process:**

Use of the Alateen name requires compliance with the **Area 10 Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements Policy.**

**This is not optional.**

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## Alateen Group Sponsors in conflict with the Area

New Information,  
March, 2022

### Some conflicts are with the Area Alateen Process:

The **Area 10 Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements Policy (ASBR)** define the qualifications for Alateen Group Sponsor.

Any questions or problems regarding certification are generally referred to the Alateen Area Process Person or the Area Alateen Coordinator.

*Your District Representative*, Area Alateen Coordinator, Area Alateen Process Person, and Delegate are the contacts for Area Process questions.

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## Alateens and Difficult Situations

### Topics teens bring up could be: You might notice these behaviors:

Living with physical violence  
Running away  
Peer pressure  
Abuse  
Sex & sexuality  
Suicide

- Fidgeting or moving around
- Crying
- Seeming angry or confused
- Doodling



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## Difficult Situations When you encounter tough stuff

### What can Alateen Group Sponsors do?

- Let the child talk about it. Encourage members to find their own solutions.
- Suggest a meeting topic to engage the group in general discussion on living with violence or anger.
- Know your local laws, especially regarding mandatory reporting. Keep a list of community resources to provide to Alateens if needed.
- Talk to other Alateen Group Sponsors and your Service Sponsor. Share your concerns without violating the Alateen's anonymity.

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## Difficult Situations Detaching from things you hear in Alateen

Alateens may share family matters that are disturbing. Remember they are only sharing one side of the story. **It is important that the Alateen Group Sponsor not place themselves between the child and the parent.**

The Alateen Group Sponsors' or AMIAS' role is not to "fix" each Alateen's problems.

Alateen group meetings and events are a safe haven for the Alateens.

Alateen Group Sponsors and AMIAS need to keep their focus on their own recovery, and not let others' problems become overwhelming.

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## Difficult Situations Avoiding Sponsor burnout



Alateen Group Sponsors need to take steps to avoid burnout, as Alateen sponsorship can be stressful and emotionally draining.

Attend additional Al-Anon meetings.

Attend a fun event or a meeting on laughter or something fun.

Attend Alateen Sponsor meetings/weekends in your district/Area.

Use your personal and service Sponsors.

Put your emotional and spiritual needs first.

Take a break from sponsoring.

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## Interactions with parents When parents ask questions

Be prepared to answer questions such as:

- How do I get my child to attend?
- Can I stay at the meeting with my child?
- How is the meeting run?
- Will they talk about me?
- Will you counsel them personally?
- Does my child participate?
- Was my child at the meeting last night?



Stress how Al-Anon can help the parent; give them literature

What parents need to know

- When to use permission forms
- Let them know the safety procedures for the meeting or event

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## Interacting with Parents When parents ask questions

- **Alateen recovery is about learning to keep the focus on oneself, just as Al-Anon members do.**

The Alateen Group Sponsor and the other Alateens are bound by our Tradition of anonymity. In the same way, we respect parents' confidentiality and do not share what they say with the Alateen member.

**Never come between a child and their parent, or undermine the parent's authority.** The Alateen Group Sponsor only has responsibility for the child while the child is in the Alateen meeting or event. The parent's decisions must be adhered to—whether you agree with them or not.

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## Anonymity



It is important to discuss the meaning of anonymity and confidentiality with the Alateen group (Traditions Eleven and Twelve).

Alateens and Alateen Group Sponsors need to understand the importance of "Whom you see here, what you hear here, when you leave here, let it stay here."

Alateen Group Sponsors protect Alateen confidences when talking with others.

Review section of this presentation on "Safety/Legal Issues" on reporting.\*

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## Anonymity Challenges of technology



### Anonymity On-line

"Tradition Eleven gives a specific guideline: 'we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, films, and TV. It is Al-Anon/Alateen policy to interpret Tradition Eleven to include the Internet as well as all forms of evolving public media. Personal anonymity in the media guards the fellowship from the Al-Anon/Alateen member who may be tempted to seek public recognition.'"

*2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27), page 91*

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## Anonymity Challenges of technology



"On any Web site accessible to the public, whether an Al-Anon site or not, full names, phone numbers, or other identifying information are not posted, if they are identified as belonging to an Al-Anon/Alateen member."

*2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27), page 91*

Alateen identifying information is never posted on the Internet.

Any contacts for an Alateen event posted online should be Area-certified AMIAS.

See *Guideline for Al-Anon Web Sites (G-40)*

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## Anonymity Challenges of technology



"Web-based communication, such as on-line audio/visual materials (e.g. Web casts or podcasts), social networking sites, and blogs, provides members with easy access to distribute information about Al-Anon/Alateen recovery to a large audience. In keeping with Tradition Eleven...members who use this type of communication outlet must maintain their personal anonymity and that of any Al-Anon/Alateen or A.A. member, as the Internet is a form of media."

*2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27), page 92)*

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## Financial Challenges



### Group Finances

It is the goal of every Al-Anon/Alateen group to be "fully self-supporting" (Tradition Seven).

Within Al-Anon/Alateen, members and groups help each other to attain the goal of self support.

Discussion of Tradition Seven in the Alateen group is helpful.

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## Financial Challenges



### Alateen Conference Expenses

Attending Alateen conferences is an individual expense.

“Alateens, like Al-Anon members, participate in paying for their attendance at conferences whenever possible.” (*Alateen Conferences*, G-16)

Alateens should be encouraged to plan their own fundraising activities, and to ask the Al-Anon district/ Area for help.

The *Alateen Conferences* Guideline (G-16) provides shared experience on local/Area Alateen event fundraising.

**How can Al-Anon help Alateens to be fully self-supporting?**

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## Applying the Traditions in Alateen meetings/events and in Alateen service

Study of the Traditions can:

Help solve problems

Help the Alateens to understand the principles of anonymity and self-support

Alateen CAL Resources:

*Alateen—Hope for Children of Alcoholics* (B-3)

*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions for Alateen* (P-18)



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## Public Outreach - The challenge of attracting teens to the group

Getting the word out about Alateen is an ongoing challenge.

Work with Area Alateen Coordinator, District, Al-Anon Information Service, Alateen and Public Outreach contact/committees

Plan Public Outreach to:

- Al-Anon groups
- A.A. groups
- Schools
- Community
- Local events (health fairs, etc.)



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## Public Outreach - The challenge of attracting teens to the group

Participate in local/Area service meetings. Demonstrate that Alateen is part of Al-Anon.

Encourage Alateens to attend local fellowship events, in compliance with Area Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements Policy (ASBR).

Work with your local district/AIS public outreach committee to help get the word out to schools, professionals, and the community.



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Alateen Training Module IV

Dealing with Challenges in Alateen



END PART B:  
CONTINUE WITH PART C.

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