

Alateen Training Module II

Alateen Group Sponsorship: The Alateen Meeting

AFG FLORIDA SOUTH, AREA 10

The Alateen Group

Every Alateen group has Alateen Group Sponsor(s) who have been certified in their Area as Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS).



Alateen Members: Who they are



Young people seeking recovery from the effects of someone else's drinking

Members of Al-Anon Family Groups who study and apply the Al-Anon /Alateen Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions to their own lives

Alateen Members

Share their experience, strength, and hope with each other

Take responsibility for the group, the meeting, and their own behavior

Support the actions of their Alateen Group Sponsor(s) to help keep their meeting safe

Serve as personal Sponsors to each other



Younger Children and Alateen

Alateen requires the ability to participate in a shared learning experience.

Teaching is not compatible with the Al-Anon principle of sharing.

Parents can help their children by attending Al-Anon themselves.

Lowering the age range is up to the autonomy of the group.

Younger Children and Alateen

Things to consider

- Setting safety guidelines for younger children
- Knowing applicable laws relating to children below teen years
- Potential problems with sharing from older Alateens being inappropriate for the younger ones. Remember that Alateens age 18 and older are legally adults
- All Alateens, even those who are legal adults, must comply with the Area Alateen Requirements when participating as an Alateen



Alateen Group Sponsors

Are certified as Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service

(Note that AMIAS must be certified first in the Area in which they live; if serving Alateen in a neighboring Area, they must also be certified in that Area)

Support the Alateens in taking responsibility for their own meeting

Share recovery

Listen, listen, listen

Attend Al-Anon meetings regularly

Who Can Start an Alateen Group?

The idea can come from an Al-Anon group or member, an A.A. member, a counselor, a school administrator, a teacher, an Alateen member, or any other young person

To start an Alateen meeting, the first step is to make contact with the **District Representative (DR)** or **Area Alateen Coordinator**.

Starting an Alateen Group

- **Contact Area Alateen Coordinator, or your District Representative - Why the DR? Because the District is responsible; however, the DR might direct you to the district level Alateen Chairperson, if there is one.**
- Obtain support from one or more Al-Anon groups, if possible
- Obtain certified Group Sponsors and AMIAS for backups
- Find a location for a weekly group meeting
- Discuss age range
- Register with WSO through Area Process which is through the AAPP
- **Review the Area Alateen Safety And Behavioral Requirements Policy & the Alateen Service e-Manual** on the WSO Members' Web site, al-anon.org/members.

The Alateen Group Meeting

All weekly Alateen meetings are “closed” meetings, regularly attended only by the Alateens and the affiliated Alateen Group Sponsors and certified backups.*

Alateen groups may hold an occasional “open” meeting to celebrate the group’s anniversary or for outreach purposes.

* Any potential Group Sponsors need to be certified before attending an Alateen meeting.

The Alateen Group Meeting

The District Representative, even if not certified, may occasionally attend Alateen groups as part of his or her service responsibility.

However, any potential Group Sponsors need to be certified before attending an Alateen meeting.

The District level Alateen Chairperson can attend, because they are required to be a certified AMIAS.

Al-Anon Support

The support of one or more established Al-Anon meetings can help to ensure success.

The Al-Anon group members can:

- Encourage Al-Anon members to become certified to provide a pool of backup Alateen Group Sponsors.
- Bring their own children/grandchildren to the Alateen meeting.
- Mention the Alateen meeting in their group announcements.
- More on Next slide.....



Al-Anon Support

(continued) The Al-Anon group members can:

- Help the Alateen group get started financially; it is important that they become self-supporting as soon as possible.
- Welcome Alateens, particularly those transitioning, to the Al-Anon meeting.



How to Become An AMIAS

Three steps are needed: (Forms are found on the Area Website)

1. Successfully complete the AMIAS Training and test.
2. Complete the application and have it signed by your District Representative, Alternate District Representative or the Area Alateen Coordinator.
3. Have your digital fingerprints taken to initiate a Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) / FBI background check. (Instructions for completing the application form and getting a background check are on the Area website, southfloridaal-anon.org.)

Certification Process for Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS)

- All prospective members interested in serving Alateen are required to become certified AMIAS before interacting with Alateens. Initial training is required as part of the application / certification process and every 3 years thereafter.
- The Area Alateen Coordinator or qualified and certified trainers, who have been prepared by the Area Alateen Coordinator, will provide the training. Contact your District Representative or the Area Alateen Coordinator to arrange your training.

Starting an Alateen Group

Finding a location

It is helpful to seek a meeting room at the same time and place as an established Al-Anon group.

A teen clubhouse, mall community room, or juvenile facility may provide a familiar and comfortable place for an Alateen meeting. Sometimes a professional will offer meeting space; if they are in a position to refer teens to the meeting, this can be a win-win location.

Consider transportation and safety issues.



South Florida Area 10 Process for Alateen Group Registration

WSO will only register groups through the Area process.

The Alateen Group Sponsors, Current Mailing Address (CMA), and group contacts must be Area-certified AMIAS.

Fill out the Alateen Group Records form completely.

Contact the AAPP for this form. Mail it to the AAPP. For the correct street address, email the AAPP at AAPP@afgfls.com or check with your District Representative.

DO NOT send the form to Area Group Records.

Role of Alateen Group Sponsors in the Alateen Meeting

Provide direction to assure that emphasis is placed on the Al-Anon program of recovery

To the best of their ability, maintain an atmosphere that will protect the Alateen members from physical and emotional harm

Maintain appropriate adult behavior

Encourage Alateens to keep order and take responsibility for themselves and the meeting

Work with others for the good of Alateen

Maintain their own Al-Anon recovery

Role of Alateen Group Sponsors

At events/service meetings in the district/Area

Take responsibility for the Alateens in their care

Work with Area/district events to be sure there is a plan in place for Alateen safety in compliance with **Area Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements Policy**.

Become familiar with Area Requirements and all WSO and Area Alateen Guidelines and documents.

Communicate with district and Area Alateen Coordinators.

The Alateen Meeting

Safety and Behavior

Alateen Group Sponsors set safety parameters for the meeting. Safety matters are not subject to group vote or approval.

Alateen Group Sponsors encourage the group to set their own behavioral guidelines and what the consequences of violations will be. Participation in setting the rules can increase support of them.

Resources:

Alateen Safety Guidelines (G-34) and Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27)

Area Requirements (including state/ provincial laws regarding minors)

The Alateen Meeting Procedures

Alateen members chair the meetings and assume responsibility for being Group Representative (GR), Secretary, and Treasurer.*

Alateen Group Sponsors may assist or coach members in leading the meeting when the group is new.

Alateen Group Sponsors help to keep the meeting on track by gently guiding the discussion to stay on Al-Anon/Alateen principles.

*an Alateen Group Sponsor should hold the group's funds.

The Alateen Meeting

Topic/Format Ideas

Where to find meeting ideas:

- *Al-Anon/Alateen Groups at Work* (P-24)
 - Basic meeting format
 - Meeting ideas
- Conference Approved Literature (CAL)
- *Alateen Talk, The Forum*
- Steps, Traditions, Slogans

Meeting formats include: discussion, speakers, question and answer, writing

Periodic meetings on Sponsorship can help the Alateens to sponsor each other peer-to-peer

The Alateen Meeting

Taking Care of Business

Group trusted servants

- Group contacts and Current Mailing Address (CMA) must be certified adults
- Alateens fill other group positions, including GR
- Learn when district and Area meetings are held

Keeping group information updated

- Send updates to the Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP), who will update the on-line WSO Group Records database.

Know your Area process for updating your local meeting directory

Transportation

- When Al-Anon members provide transportation as a service to Alateen, they need to be certified according to their Area Alateen process **and use the required form.**

Parents and the Alateen Group Sponsor

What is said in an Alateen meeting is confidential. Just as in Al-Anon meetings, “Whom you see here, what you hear here, when you leave here, let it stay here” applies. This applies to parents as well.

Group Sponsors keep Alateens’ confidences and **do not interfere in parent/child relationships or challenge parental authority.**

Alateens and Al-Anon members can share with parents how Al-Anon can help them, and encourage parents to try Al-Anon meetings themselves.

Alateen and the Law

The Alateen Group Sponsor needs to be aware of current state and local laws regarding mandatory reporting of issues related to minors. In Florida, reporting of abuse and neglect is mandatory.

Alateens should be made aware of this at each meeting before sharing begins, as Al-Anon/Alateen confidentiality is not above the law.

Alateen and the Law

In Florida, “Child abuse laws require reporting by everyone, not just those in a professional capacity.”

In Florida, Child Abuse is defined as: Any willful or threatened act that results in any physical, mental, or sexual injury or harm that causes or is likely to cause the child’s physical, mental or emotional health to be significantly impaired.....”

Alateen and the Law

Since reporting is mandatory, how do we prepare the Alateens?

Alateens must be made aware of your legal reporting responsibility.

Discuss this at every meeting, before sharing begins, so that they have a choice in the subjects they share. Consider adding this to the Meeting Opening.

Alateen and the Law

Abuse / sexual harassment is often a matter of perception. Don't put yourself in a situation where your actions could be misinterpreted.

Be careful with hugging, touching, language, and your appearance.

Don't be alone with an Alateen. Always have another sponsor / adult present.

What Parents Need to Know about Alateen

Who is with their children

What safety measures are in place

When parental permission forms are required

Information about Alateen events

It is a good idea to have parent contact information in case of emergency



Helping the Alateen Group to Grow

Work with your local Public Outreach Committee and encourage Public Outreach for Alateen

Give Information to local schools, churches, counseling centers

Participate in district and Al-Anon Information Service (AIS) meetings and events

Contact your District Representative or Area Alateen Coordinator for information regarding Area **Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements Policy**

Starting an Alateen Group Meetings in Schools

- Just as with other Alateen groups, meetings in schools must be in compliance with the **Area Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements Policy**.
- Meetings with school officials may require preparation to educate the staff on what Alateen is and is not.
- Working with school regulations may require diplomacy and negotiation. For example, some school districts may require that school personnel sit in on the meetings.
- See guideline *Alateen Meetings In Schools (G-5)* for tips and suggestions.

Al-Anon/Alateen Literature and Other Materials

Conference Approved Literature - Recovery books, pamphlets, booklets, guidelines

Alateen Service E-Manual

Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27)

Alateen Talk (quarterly)*

The Forum (monthly)**

Two Web sites:

- al-anon.org
- Southfloridaal-anon.org

* English only. Excerpts are translated to French and Spanish and posted on al-anon.org.

** English only. Spanish- and French-speaking Al-Anon and Alateen groups receive *En Accion* and *Le Lien* respectively five times a year.



In Closing

Welcome to the world of service to Alateen!

Area Alateen Coordinator: through Dec, 2023

- Alateen Area Coordinator – Nancy W.
alateen@afgfls.com
- Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP) – Joanne H.
AAPP@afgfls.com

District _____ contacts (insert district contact information here)

Name:

Service role:

Phone:

E-mail:

