

## Alateen Training Module II

# Alateen Group Sponsorship: The Alateen Meeting

AFG Florida South, Area 10  
2018

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# 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
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# 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.
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# 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
- 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
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# 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 or Area Alateen Coordinator
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# Starting an Alateen Group

- Contact Area Alateen Coordinator or District Alateen Liaison/Coordinator
  - 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
  - Review the Alateen Service e-Manual on the Members' Web site, [al-anon.org/members](http://al-anon.org/members).
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# 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.
- The District Representative (or other Area-designated trusted servants) as part of their service responsibility may occasionally attend Alateen groups.

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

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# 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.
  - 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.



# Florida South Area 10 Certification Process

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

- To become an AMIAS, follow the instructions and use the forms found under the Alateen Section of the Area website, <http://www.southfloridaal-anon.org>

Ensure that you complete AMIAS training either prior to your acceptance as an AMIAS or within 30 days of being notified that you have been approved and assigned an AMIAS number. Contact your District Alateen Chairperson, AISL, or District Representative about how training can be completed

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## 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.



# Area 10 Process for Alateen Group Registration and changes

- WSO will only register groups through the AAPP
  - All existing group changes must be sent to the Area 10 AAPP. Do not send to District or Area Group Records.
  - The Alateen Group Sponsors, CMA, and group contacts must be Area-certified AMIAS
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- **REGISTRATION & CHANGES  
(CONTINUED)**

Fill out the GR – 3 form completely.  
Mail it to the AAPP (you can e-mail  
the AAPP at

- **[aapp@afgfls.com](mailto:aapp@afgfls.com)**
- For a street address for AAPP, you may e-mail the AAPP or check with your District Representative, AISL, or Alateen Chairperson.

DO NOT send it to Area Group  
Records

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# 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
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# Role of Alateen Group Sponsors

At events/service meetings in the district/Area

- Take responsibility for the Alateens in their care
  - Work with Area 10 or district events to be sure there is a plan in place for Alateen safety in compliance with Area Requirements
  - Become familiar with Area 10 Requirements and all WSO and Area Alateen Guidelines
  - Communicate with district and Area Alateen Coordinators
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# 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)*
  - Area Requirements (including state/ provincial laws regarding minors)
  - *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27)*
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# 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.

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# 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

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# 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 10 meetings are held
  - Keeping group information updated
    - Send updates to the Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP), who will relay changes to the WSO Group Records Department
  - Know your Area 10 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
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# 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.
  - 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.
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# 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. If you reside in a state or province that has such laws, the Alateens should be made aware of this at each meeting before sharing begins, as Al-Anon/Alateen confidentiality is not above the law.

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# 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.....”
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# 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.

“ However, if you share that you are being abused, or that you plan to harm someone else, we have an obligation to take action, in order to protect both you and the group. “

# 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





# Helping the Alateen Group to Grow

- Work with your local Public Outreach Committee
- Information to local schools, churches, counseling centers
- Participate in district and Al-Anon Information Service (AIS) meetings and events
- Contact your Area or District Alateen Coordinator for information regarding Area Alateen Requirements and Public Outreach



# 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.
  - 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.
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# Al-Anon/Alateen Literature and other Materials

- Conference Approved Literature
  - Recovery books, pamphlets, booklets
- Guidelines
- *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24/27)
- *Alateen Talk* (quarterly)\*
- *The Forum* (monthly)\*\*
- Two WSO Web sites:
  - [al-anon.org](http://al-anon.org)
  - [al-anon.org/members](http://al-anon.org/members)[insert Area/local Web site]



\* English only. Excerpts are translated to French and Spanish and posted on [al-anon.org](http://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.

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# In Closing

- Welcome to the world of service to Alateen!
- • Area 10 Alateen Coordinator: – Stu D.  
at [alateen@afgfls.com](mailto:alateen@afgfls.com)
- • For Area 10 District contacts  
Contact your D.R. or AISL

