

the Al-Anon groups. They are reviewed by a Delegate member committee for adherence to Al-Anon principles. Members may not want to use these materials as the source for an entire meeting, but they may be helpful in resolving group issues, in local outreach, and in providing information to the group on a variety of topics.

Respecting Copyrights

All Al-Anon materials are copyrighted and protected against use by anyone else.

In order to protect our copyrights, we do not allow use of any part of Al-Anon literature without written permission, which is given only for brief excerpts. Such use is always credited to Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. in acknowledgement of our copyrights.

Similarly, Al-Anon general service offices (GSOs) who translate and publish Al-Anon materials in countries outside the U.S. and Canada have copyrighted their translations in their countries. The GSOs first must obtain permission to translate CAL from the WSO, with the understanding that the translations will accurately reflect the original text.

Al-Anon electronic meetings must request permission to use CAL on-line. Guidelines for excerpting and reprinting both in printed publications and on-line are available from the World Service Office.

For more details on Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature, consult the *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24/27).

The Al-Anon Family Groups are a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength, and hope in order to solve their common problems. We believe alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery.

Al-Anon is not allied with any sect, denomination, political entity, organization, or institution; does not engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any cause. There are no dues for membership. Al-Anon is self-supporting through its own voluntary contributions.

Al-Anon has but one purpose: to help families of alcoholics. We do this by practicing the Twelve Steps, by welcoming and giving comfort to families of alcoholics, and by giving understanding and encouragement to the alcoholic.

Suggested Al-Anon Preamble to the Twelve Steps

For meeting information call:
1-888-425-2666 (1-888-4AL-ANON)

Al-Anon/Alateen is supported by members' voluntary contributions and from the sale of our Conference Approved Literature.

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This pamphlet is also available in: French, Italian, Portuguese, and Spanish.

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Approved by
World Service Conference
Al-Anon Family Groups

Why Conference Approved Literature?

For Al-Anon and Alateen


Al-Anon Family Groups
Help and hope for families and friends of alcoholics

“Our common welfare should come first; personal progress for the greatest number depends upon unity.”

Tradition One

Al-Anon/Alateen literature...
Conference Approved Literature...
Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature...
CAL...
what does it all mean????

What is Al-Anon “Conference Approved Literature” (CAL)?

Al-Anon’s World Service Conference (WSC), established in 1961, set up a process to make sure that Al-Anon literature accurately expresses Al-Anon policies and perspective. Literature bearing the seal and words,



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has been designated “Conference Approved Literature” (CAL) by the WSC and has been through a rigorous committee review process. It was also examined for adherence to Al-Anon’s Traditions and policies. Literature bearing this seal was written by Al-Anon members, approved by Al-Anon members, is for Al-Anon members, and is written from the Al-Anon point of view.

Why is our literature “Conference Approved”?

In the early days of Al-Anon, before there was a World Service Conference, individual groups wrote and distributed their own literature. Some of these materials reflected the principles of Al-Anon, others did not. A.A. literature was also used at Al-Anon meetings in the 1950s. In 1962 and 1965, the World Service Conference voted unanimously to recommend to groups the exclusive use of Al-Anon Conference Approved Literature. This encourages Al-Anon unity and assures that the Al-Anon message at our meetings will be clear and consistent.

Why don’t we use other “outside” literature at meetings?

“Outside” literature may or may not convey the Al-Anon message. Using other materials in our meetings can lead to dissension and affect our groups’ unity; it can be particularly confusing to a newcomer. Members are always free to read and study whatever they wish outside of meetings; Al-Anon takes no stand of approval or disapproval of any outside material. Exclusive use of Al-Anon materials at our meetings helps to make sure that Al-Anon will remain Al-Anon. Our members know that wherever they may go throughout the world, the Al-Anon message of help and hope will be consistently there.

How is CAL developed and how does it become Conference Approved?

- Today, an idea for a particular type of literature comes from the Al-Anon membership, and is brought to the World Service Conference.
- The proposed literature must meet a need in our fellowship that is not adequately covered in existing Al-Anon materials.
- The Conference will discuss and decide whether to give approval to the development of a new piece of literature.
- Once the Conference has approved it, the World Service Office staff coordinates the project, following the process for developing CAL.
- A call for sharings is issued to the membership.
- A writer/editor (Al-Anon member) is contracted to compile the sharings into a manuscript.
- A Literature Committee of Delegate and At-Large Al-Anon members will review the manuscript at every stage of its development.
- Once the Committee is satisfied, a team of Policy Committee reviewers and the World Service Office Executive Director review the draft manuscript for adherence to Al-Anon Traditions and policies.
- Only then will the completed work go into final design and production and be issued with the CAL seal.

“Conference Approval” of a piece of literature means that its development was authorized by the

Conference, it has been through the CAL process, and that Al-Anon members, including, over 20 Delegate, Trustee, and staff members of the Conference, have approved the final edition.

Today, all Al-Anon CAL goes through this process. Most of our literature was developed in this manner. A few early pamphlets (*Alcoholism, a Merry-Go-Round Named Denial*, for example), were felt to meet an Al-Anon need and were designated as CAL by the Conference. As a necessary courtesy, credit was given to the author or the organization where the material originated. With the wealth of wisdom today in the Al-Anon membership, outside materials are no longer considered for CAL.

How can I contribute to CAL?

When a new piece of literature is authorized by the World Service Conference, all Al-Anon members are invited to submit sharings for consideration. If a sharing is not used for the new literature, it may be considered for use in *The Forum*. All sharings will be acknowledged upon receipt. Lengthy manuscripts or previously published material cannot be considered for CAL.

In order for our literature to reflect the experience, strength, and hope of a diverse cross section of our membership, it is important that many Al-Anon members share their experiences in writing for all Al-Anon materials. Writing guidelines are available for each piece of literature in development.

What about *The Forum* and other WSO publications?

The Forum, Al-Anon’s monthly magazine, is a Conference approved publication. Although time does not allow each issue to go through the complete process for developing CAL, each story submitted is reviewed by a volunteer committee of Al-Anon members. *The Forum* is recommended for use at Al-Anon meetings.

Other Al-Anon materials that do not bear the CAL seal include newsletters (*Alateen Talk, Area Highlights*), reprints, and service tools such as guidelines, service-related leaflets, and public outreach materials. These items are the result of member experiences shared with the World Service Office, and are produced for