

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.

Alcoholics Anonymous 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 to help other alcoholics achieve sobriety.

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"I am responsible.....when anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of A.A. always to be there. And for that, I am responsible."

Area 69 Corrections (or) Treatment
P.O. Box 648
Sandy, Utah 84091-648 www.utahaa.org

area69corrections@utahaa.org
area69treatment@utahaa.org

What A.A. & Bridging the Gap Does:

Helps people with a desire to stop drinking find a solution to their problem.

Helps the new member adjust to A.A. meetings and the A.A. Fellowship outside of institutions.

What A.A. & Bridging the Gap Do Not Do:

Furnish initial motivation / Solicit members
Charge dues or fees / Operate clinics or drying out facilities / Operate clubs / Provide housing, meals, or transportation / Keep membership records / Follow up on errant members / Control its members / Hold classes / Practice medicine, psychiatry, or nursing / Offer religious services or professional counseling / Accept money from non-members / Do research / Join councils or social agencies

The A.A. volunteers who bring meetings to your facility can assist you with the Bridging the Gap program and answer questions about Temporary Contacts.

IMPORTANT:

If you are released unexpectedly, before you are able to arrange for a Temporary Contact, call the Alcoholics Anonymous office nearest where you are staying. The number can be found in the white pages of the phone book. They may be able to help you find a Bridging the Gap member in your area, an initial contact, or a meeting nearby. The number for Alcoholics Anonymous in our District is:

District _____ Bridging the Gap

For AAs on the Inside

New Member Guide

**Utah, Area 69
Bridging the Gap
Prerelease Contact
Program**

**A Temporary Contact
Guide for New
A.A. Members in
Treatment & Corrections**

**Connecting Inside
A.A. members
to the A.A. Community**

**Bridging the Gap
Prerelease Request Form**

I am within three months of my release date. I would like to have an A.A. Temporary Contact who will provide a link for me to the A.A. community through meetings and introductions to other AAs.

Name: _____ M / F

DOC Number: _____

Facility: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Release Date: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

(Tear off this portion of the pamphlet)

**Return to the A.A. Volunteers at your facility
or:**

District _____ Bridging the Gap Coordinator
or (Corrections or Treatment Committee) c/o:

**If the District Coordinator fails
to make contact send this to :**

Area 69 Corrections (or) Treatment
P.O. Box 648
Sandy, Utah 84091-648
Web site: www.utahaa.org

**A.A. Bridging the Gap
Prerelease Contact Program**

Dear A.A. Member,

We have a program in this area called The A.A. Bridging the Gap Prerelease Contact Program. If you are interested, you can be matched upon your release to an A.A. member in your home community. This Temporary A.A. Contact volunteer will take you to up to six A.A. meetings, introduce you, and help you get acquainted and comfortable in A.A. During this time you will learn more about sponsors, home groups, working A.A.'s Twelve Steps, and service.

Your Prerelease Contact is temporary only. They are there to support you, answer questions, and explain the A.A. program of recovery. They will not provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money, or other such services. You will undoubtedly hear the five basic suggestions for sobriety that the Fellowship shares with all members: 1) Don't drink, 2) Go to meetings, 3) Read the Big Book, 4) Call your sponsor, and 5) Work the steps.

Past experience has shown that attending an A.A. meeting as soon as possible after release is vital to making a sober transition to life on the outside. Many of us have been where you are now, and know that the program of A.A. and it's fellowship can do for you what it has done for us and countless others.

Treatment clients and early release inmates may need to accelerate their request through the BTG Coordinator or the Area Corrections & Treatment Committee volunteers. Let them know if you need immediate processing.

Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as "substance abuse." Non alcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Anyone may attend open A.A. meetings, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed meetings.

Program Procedures

1. As an inside A.A. member, you are eligible for this program if you are within three months of your release date.
2. Please fill in the attached form and return it to the A.A. volunteers or mail it to the Bridging the Gap Coordinator or Corrections & Treatment Committees. You will find the addresses at the bottom of the request form and on the back of this pamphlet.
3. The Prerelease Contact Coordinator will notify you that the application has been received and is being processed for a Temporary Contact match.
4. A Temporary Contact will then write to you within two weeks to confirm contact. Please notify the BTG Coordinator or the volunteers if you haven't received a confirmation within that time.
5. You and the Temporary Contact will set up a meeting at the time of your release. Be sure to provide on the release form such information as date of release, when you will arrive in the local area and the address and phone number where you can be reached.
6. The Temporary contact will meet you at an agreed upon time and place after your release to help you adjust to attending your first few meetings in the local community.
7. Please remember that the Temporary Contact is there to make your transition from "inside" to "outside" meetings as comfortable as possible. There is no rigid schedule but usually after a maximum of six meetings the Temporary Contact will rotate on to help someone new.

Note: To insure a temporary contact will take place, treatment clients and inmates subject to early release need to make special arrangements with their BTG providers to accelerate the process. See the other side for more urgent situations.