

FOR A.A. INMATES

BRIDGING THE GAP PRERELEASE CONTACT PROGRAM

Dear Inmate,
We have a program in this area called the A.A. Bridging The Gap Prerelease Contact Program. If you sign up, you can be matched upon release to an A.A. member in your home community. This A.A. Prerelease Contact volunteer will take you to up to six A.A. meetings, introduce you around, and help you get acquainted and comfortable in A.A. During this time, you will learn 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: Don't Drink, Go to Meetings, Read the Big Book, Call Your Sponsor, and Work the Steps.

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

Complete the attached Inmate's Application, then cut off and mail it to the address indicated. If possible, do this three to six months prior to your release. The A.A. Prerelease Contact coordinator will then match you up with a Prerelease Contact volunteer in the community where you will be living. That person will write to you with information on how to contact him or her once you are released.

Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as "substance abuse" or "chemical dependency." Nonalcoholics 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. Inside A.A. members are eligible for this program if they are within three to six months of their release date.
2. The inmate fills in the attached application and mails it to the Bridging The Gap Coordinators, who process all Prerelease Contacts.
3. The Prerelease Contact coordinator will notify the inside member that the application has been received and is being processed.
4. The coordinator finds a Prerelease Contact and then informs the inmate.
5. The Prerelease Contact then writes to the inside A.A. member within two weeks to confirm contact. If the Prerelease Contact fails to make contact, the inside A.A. member should inform the coordinator.
6. The inside A.A. member and the Prerelease Contact set up a meeting at the time of the inmate's release. The inside A.A. should provide such information as date of release, when they will arrive in the local area, an address and phone number.
7. The Prerelease Contact will meet the newly release A.A. at an agreed to time and place to help them adjust to attending their first few meetings in the local community.
8. The Prerelease Contact is asked to let the newly release A.A. know that after a maximum of six meetings, their work together will be done, and that the Prerelease Contact will rotating on to help someone new.
9. After a connection has been completed, the Prerelease Contact will inform the coordinator of the results.

INMATE'S APPLICATION

I am within six months of my release date. I am requesting an A.A. Bridging The Gap Contact who will provide a link for me to the A.A. community through transportation to meetings and introductions to other A.A.s.

Inmate Name: _____

Sex: Male _____ Female _____

Doc Number: _____

Doc Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Releasing to: (Town or Area) _____

Date of Release: _____

Address after Release: _____

Phone Number: _____

I would like to make a commitment to attend an A.A. meeting within 48 hours of my release. I understand that the A.A. Bridging The Gap Contact is not an A.A. Sponsor.

Signature

Date

District Bridging Gap Coordinator

P.O. Box ?

Sandy, UT

or if BTG District Coordinator fails to make contact

Area Corrections Committee

P.O. Box 4

Milford, UT 84751