

# Module II

## Area 9 AMIAS Training

ALATEEN RECOVERY IS AL-ANON RECOVERY

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# Alateen Members

- Are members of Al-Anon who are usually 18 years old or younger
- Are affected by alcoholism in many different ways - parents, teachers, siblings, etc.
- Learn about, and practice, Al-Anon recovery
- Take responsibility for the Alateen Meeting



# Alateen Members

- 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

- Work together to set safety guidelines for younger children before and after the meeting
- Talk through difficulties
- Potential problems with sharing from older Alateens being inappropriate for the younger ones
- 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
  - Maintain current contact information with Area Alateen Process Person
  - Commit to regular attendance of the Alateen Group
  - Attend Al-Anon meetings regularly
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# Starting an Alateen Group

- Contact Area Alateen Coordinator or District Alateen Liaison/Chairperson
  - Contact one or more Al-Anon groups for support when needed
  - Contact certified Group Sponsors and AMIAS for backups
  - Find a location for a weekly group meeting
  - Discuss age range
  - Register with WSO through Area Process
  - Make sure everyone has access to resources
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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.

\* 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.



# 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
  - 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/district events to be sure there is a plan in place for Alateen safety in compliance with Area Requirements
  - Become familiar with Area Requirements and all WSO and Area Alateen Guidelines
  - Communicate with district and Area Alateen Coordinators
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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
  - Keeping group information updated
    - Send updates to the Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP), who will relay changes to the WSO Group Records Department
  - 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

- Every adult 18 years and older is considered a Mandatory Reporter in the state of Florida.
  - This means that if you hear of or suspect child abuse you must make a report to an approved official.
  - If this happens, please contact your Area Alateen Coordinator or AAPP and we will help you walk through this process.
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# 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 Area Alateen Coordinator
- Work with Public Outreach - District & Area
- Participate in Area Events
- Encourage use of the WSO Al-Anon App
- Support Alateen Meetings by encouraging Al-Anon members to certify



# 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.
  - Each County School District is autonomous. Please reach out for help.
  - 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)\*\*
- Web sites:
  - [al-anon.org](http://al-anon.org)
  - [al-anon.org/members](http://al-anon.org/members)
  - [afgarea9.org](http://afgarea9.org)



\* 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!

