

Questions from Spring Assembly Re: Behavioral Requirements & Alateen Sponsor Application – 3/17/12

Questions: Behavioral Requirements:

Requirement #1 Q - What does it mean to have “vote of confidence from the home group?” – an officer of the group would then sign the form? A - Members of one’s home group should know the applicant better than other members of Al-Anon, know if he/she is working his/her program and if he/she is healthy enough to guide Alateens. A group conscious vote should be done with the applicant out of the room, either by hands or written ballot (majority vote). Would it be awkward to tell a member that he/she got a “no” vote – maybe and it probably won’t happen often, but worse would be having a member who is not healthy/stable sponsoring Alateens. The GR for the group would sign the form or an officer of the group if there is no GR.

Q - Would this be your own home group? A – YES

Q - Do people who are not members of “the home group” abstain? A – Newcomers and members who do not know the applicant should abstain from the vote.

Q – Is this going to be required of all members who are already Alateen sponsors? A – No, but it will be required of all new Alateen sponsors. (Actually it was required in the past but it was not clear and was not always being done)

Q – What constitutes a voting member of a group? A – Technically, anyone who attends a group has a vote. It may not be your home group but if you attend that meeting, you do have a vote.

Q - Regarding the Vote of Confidence: What is the procedure for a tie vote? Will a tie vote be the same as a vote of "no confidence?" A - A tie vote would be the same as a "no" vote of confidence. A tie vote is **not a majority vote** and means that half of voting members are not confident that this applicant should become an Alateen sponsor.

Q – What is the difference between an Al-Anon Personal Sponsor and a Service Sponsor? A – A personal sponsor guides another member through the 12 Steps, helps him/her to use program tools in day-to-day situations, etc. A service sponsor guides another member in his/her service work. A personal sponsor could also be a service sponsor if he/she has the service experience.

Requirement # 2 Q – What is the difference between a group sponsor and a sponsoring group? A – A group sponsor refers to an Alateen member who sponsors in an Alateen group. A sponsoring group is a group that supports an Alateen group, financially, etc. (See Behavioral Requirement #5) Alateen traditions also include the seventh tradition of being self-supporting, so the financial commitment should be limited. It means the Alateen sponsor (group sponsor) has a group to go to on behalf of the Alateens for concerns about the meeting space or whatever else might be an issue for the Alateen group.

Q – Is there a form for the group to fill out to become a sponsoring group? A – No, but the AAPP will record in the Alateen group records for each group, which group is sponsoring that Alateen meeting.

Requirement #3 Q – If you were recertified in Sept. 2011, do you need to be recertified again by April 30 for 2012? A – No – certification year goes from May 1 of one year through April 30 of the following year.

Q – Is there a recertification form to be sent out every year to Alateen sponsors? A – Yes, new this year and it has been added to Behavioral Requirement #3.

Q – Should a group tell someone about the Alateen Sponsor’s misdemeanor, felony or sexual abuse and that he/she is unfit to sponsor anymore if he/she is still sponsoring? A – If there are legitimate concerns about an Alateen sponsor, an individual or group can seek guidance from its District Representative, the Area Alateen Coordinator, the AAPP (Area Alateen Process Person), and/or the Area Chair.

Q - Will this process of sending out a form to Alateen sponsors to update the AAPP (& WSO) gather information annually? A – The form will be sent annually. Not this year, but the AAPP may ask questions in the future to find out how many Alateen sponsors are actively sponsoring and in which Alateen groups, or other pertinent information.

Q – AMIAS have to be recertified each year by attending another Alateen training workshop. Do AMIAS also have to be recertified by their home group with an annual vote of confidence? **A** = No, Alateen sponsors do not have to obtain a vote of confidence every year from his/her home group for recertification. However, if he/she is not adhering to the behavioral requirements and others have voiced legitimate concerns to appropriate officers (DR, Area Alateen Coordinator, AAPP, Area Chair) that person could be asked to step away from Alateen group sponsoring.

Requirement #4 – No questions

Requirement #5 Q – Assuring the Alateen groups registration is current – what does this mean for the Alateen sponsor? **A** - If an Alateen sponsor is listed as the CMA (current mailing address) and contact person on the Alateen group registration form, he/she should make sure that all information on the registration form is up-to-date (change of sponsor listed on registration form, change of time, place, day, group closing, etc.) If that Alateen sponsor becomes inactive, other Alateen sponsors of that group should make sure that the information on that form is current.

Q – Should an Alateen sponsor attend an Alateen meeting once in a while if he/she is not actively sponsoring in an Alateen group? **A** – Yes, whenever possible. Sometimes members become Alateen sponsors in anticipation of an Alateen meeting starting. In order to become comfortable sponsoring, an Alateen sponsor should try to attend an Alateen meeting occasionally – in another District if necessary – either as a substitute sponsor when needed or with permission from the Alateens in that group as stated in Requirement #5.

Q – Should I get a vote of confidence as a prospective Alateen Sponsor from the Al-Anon group that is sponsoring the Alateen group? **A** – NO - When you are applying to become an Alateen sponsor, you obtain the vote of confidence from **your home group**... these are the members who know you best.

Q – Should I be invited to an Alateen group to be able to sit in on one? **A** – Not necessarily an “invitation” but the Alateens have to give permission for anyone other than their Alateen sponsors to be at the meeting (except when a Certified Alateen sponsor is substituting for another sponsor in order to hold the meeting).

Requirement #6 No Questions

Requirement #7 Q – Can a parent/ legal guardian sponsor when his/her child is attending the meetings? **A** – It is strongly suggested that an Alateen sponsor not sponsor in a group that his/her child/children are attending. Obviously, it would make it very hard for that teen to feel comfortable sharing with his/her parent there.

Q – (At an Alateen meeting in a school) If a sponsor did not show up could the counselor at the school substitute for that sponsor where the kids know him/her already? **A** – NO - there are no exceptions to this requirement. There needs to be two Certified Alateen Sponsors at every Alateen meeting.

Requirement #8 No Questions

Requirement #9 Q – Is a speeding ticket a misdemeanor? **A** – NO it is not.

Q – What does formally accused mean? **A** – The person has been formally charged.

Q – If it was resolved – is it dropped? **A** – Since we do not require background checks or fingerprinting in Maine, we are relying on each individuals to read the requirements, examine his/her conscience and decide if he/she qualifies. A person who has been formally accused of a sexual misconduct, whether it is dropped or not, should definitely not come forward to sponsor Alateens. (Read the quote on the Alateen Sponsor Application (#7))

Q – Should the bottom of the application conform to the top, just in case people don't fully review the document before signing, by adding Al-Anon Personal/Service Sponsor (before signature)? **A** = I agree - we can change that easily enough. But I do think it should be made clear (in workshops) that it is each applicant's responsibility to read the Behavioral Requirements and Alateen Sponsor Application thoroughly because when signing the application, he/she is agreeing to abide by them.

Requirement # 10 Q – Once an Alateen reaches the age of 18, does he/she need to have permission from his/her parents? **A** – NO - In Maine, when a person reaches 18 he/she is considered an adult and able to sign any necessary forms himself/herself.

Questions: ALATEEN GROUP SPONSOR APPLICATION

1 – 7 No Questions

General Questions

Q – What if a sponsoring Al-Anon group for an Alateen meeting does not have any Alateen sponsors that attend its meeting? **A** - It is not required that an Al-Anon sponsoring group must have Alateen sponsors in its group.

Q – Can the Al-Anon (sponsoring) group for an Alateen meeting have a list or know who Alateen sponsors are from its group? **A** – Technically, the persons who are given a list of Alateen sponsors are the District Representative and the Area Alateen Coordinator (and the Alateen Chair of the District if there is one). There was discussion about this at Assembly. The sponsoring group is not responsible to see that Alateen sponsors are lined up for the meeting. That is the responsibility of the Alateen sponsors who are sponsoring that Alateen group. The Alateen meeting sometimes takes place on a different day and at a different facility than the sponsoring group. If the sponsoring Al-Anon group has concerns about the Alateen meeting, a representative from that group should speak with an Alateen sponsor of that group and/or the District Representative. If a group is sponsoring an Alateen group, the group will have been approached by an Alateen sponsor of that group for this request – the group may not know who all of the Alateen sponsors are, however.

If you have any further questions, please contact Sandy at 799-8217 altdelegate@maineafg.org