

# Alateen Policy

## Area Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements

*Note: World Service Conference Alateen policies that are approved for the World Service Conference structure must adhere to the 2003 Alateen Motion from the Board of Trustees. The 2003 Alateen Motion is a legal resolution of the Board of Trustees of Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. and cannot be changed by a World Service Conference Motion. Just as our Al-Anon/Alateen policies and procedures must be in keeping with our Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, Twelve Concepts of Service, and the World Service Conference Charter, Alateen policies and procedures for the World Service Conference structure must also comply with the 2003 Alateen Motion. Only the Board of Trustees can amend or alter the 2003 Alateen Motion.*

**Each Al-Anon Area in the World Service Conference Structure has Area Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements in place which meet or exceed the minimum requirements set by the 2003 Alateen Motion from the Board of Trustees (available from the WSO). The Area's Requirements include minimum requirements for Al-Anon Members Involved In Alateen Service (AMIAS), Alateen meetings, and Alateen participation in conferences, conventions, and other events. In order to use the Alateen name, the Area, all Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service, all Alateen members, and all meetings and events with Alateen participation must be in compliance with the Area's Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements. Each Area's Alateen process details the steps that must be taken to meet its requirements.**

**An Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS) is an Al-Anon member who is currently certified through their Area's Alateen process and is therefore eligible to be directly responsible for Alateens while being of service to Alateen. AMIAS may be certified by more than one Area; however, they must first be certified by the Area in which they reside. AMIAS may serve as Alateen Group Sponsors, chaprones, drivers, or other roles as outlined in their Area's Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements. Area Alateen Coordinators are required to be certified AMIAS; the Area determines which other service roles require certification.**

**Al-Anon members who are also members of A.A. may be certified as AMIAS and serve as a-Alateen Group Sponsors by virtue of their Al-Anon membership, in accordance with their Area's Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements. Emphasis should be placed on the Al-Anon interpretation of the program at all times.**

## Area Alateen Process

Each Area has its own process to implement and maintain its Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements, including the paperwork required for certification of AMIAS, registration of Alateen groups, and events with Alateen participation.

Details on an Area's Alateen process are available from the Area Alateen Coordinator, Area Alateen Process Person (AAPP), another Area trusted servant, or your District Representative (DR). To connect with Area trusted servants, contact your Group Representative (GR), DR, or the World Service Office.

## Starting an Alateen Group

In order to use the Alateen name, groups must register with the World Service Office through their Area's Alateen process. An Al-Anon—Each meeting must have an Alateen Group Sponsor (two are recommended) is essential to every group in order to keep the focus on the Al-Anon interpretation of the program. It is recommended that there be two Every Alateen Group Sponsors each of whom is a minimum of 21 years old, currently attending Al-Anon meetings and an active Al-Anon member for at least two years in addition to any time spent in the Alateen program. (Additional requirements may be set by the Al-Anon Area.)

Once registered, every Alateen group abides by the Alateen Traditions and is open to all Alateen members.

## Alateen Group Sponsors

An Alateen Group Sponsor is an adult member of Al-Anon who attends Al-Anon meetings regularly, is currently certified as an Al-Anon Member Involved In Alateen Service through their Area's Alateen process, and has made a commitment to be of service to an Alateen meeting on a regular basis. Alateen Group Sponsors encourage the Alateens to take responsibility for their own meetings and to share their experience, strength, and hope with each other.

Alateen Group Sponsor(s) must be present to hold an Alateen meeting, as outlined in the Area's Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements. When a regular Sponsor is not available, another Al-Anon member who is certified through the Area's Alateen process can serve as an Alateen Group Sponsor. When there are no certified Al-Anon members available to be of service to the Alateen group, the Alateens are welcome to attend an Al-Anon meeting. Whenever young people (minors) attend an Al-Anon meeting, the Al-Anon group would be responsible for prudent safety measures for them just as it is for the safety of Al-Anon members attending (e.g. making sure no one is left alone at the facility, etc.).

## Alateen Personal Sponsors

Alateen Group Sponsors and other Al-Anon members do not serve as personal Sponsors to individual Alateens. Alateen members are encouraged to sponsor each other in a peer-to-peer relationship.

## Who Attends Alateen Meetings

Alateen meetings are closed meetings; ordinarily only Alateen members, prospective members, and the Area-certified Alateen Group Sponsors affiliated with the group attend. However, designated Area trusted servants may occasionally attend the meeting as a resource to the group per the Area's Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements. Any potential Alateen Group Sponsor must go through the Area's certification process prior to visiting an Alateen group.

An Alateen group may hold an occasional (annual, bi-annual, or quarterly) public outreach open meeting for the purpose of introducing Alateen to Al-Anon members, A.A., professionals, teachers, and other members of the community.

## Alateen Membership/Age Range

As the name implies, Alateen is designed for members in their teens. Family members below teen years may **might** not be ready for the Alateen program. Such children may have to depend on others to choose what they learn. This could lead to the development of a teaching program. "Teaching" is not compatible with the Al-Anon principle of sharing. There are, however, younger children who can benefit from the Alateen program, which requires the ability to participate in a shared learning experience.

It is within the autonomy of each Alateen group to lower the age limit or divide into groups according to age. Whatever the decision, all such groups will be registered as "Alateen" at the World Service Office. Members **in their teen years who are legally adults agree to abide by the same requirements as minor Alateens when they attend Alateen meetings and events. Alateen members in the upper teen years are encouraged to begin attending Al-Anon as well as Alateen meetings; young people beyond the teen years are encouraged to attend Al-Anon meetings.**

## Funding/Seventh Tradition

It may be difficult for a new Alateen group to meet all its expenses and needs. The local Al-Anon group(s) or district may provide literature or funds to help the group get started, with the goal of the Alateen group becoming fully self-supporting as soon as possible.

## Alateen in Schools and other Facilities

Alateen meetings in schools, hospitals, juvenile centers, and other professional settings can give children and teens access to Alateen who might not otherwise be able to attend. Such meetings are often only open to the young people in those schools or facilities. Generally, members will meet with the facility staff to explain Al-Anon/Alateen principles of anonymity and confidentiality and learn about the facility's requirements. The goal is to reach a mutually beneficial arrangement in keeping with the Area's Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements and the Traditions. Some facilities require that a counselor or other staff member sit in the meeting; in such cases, the meeting can be considered open only to required personnel in a limited access setting. (See the guideline *Alateen Meetings in Schools* [G-5].)

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## Events with Alateen Participation

In order to use the Alateen name, any event or gathering with Alateen participation (including Alateen conferences, Al-Anon/Alateen conventions, Area Assemblies, multi-Area events, and A.A. events with Al-Anon and Alateen participation) must be in compliance with the Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements of the Area in which it is held. (See "Area Alateen Process.")

Areas, districts, groups, or conferences may have fundraising events to provide full or partial scholarships for Alateens or Alateen Group Sponsors who may not otherwise be able to attend. In keeping with the Seventh Tradition, contributions for attending the conference should be solicited only from within Al-Anon (See "Financial Matters/Fundraising.") (See guidelines *Alateen Conferences* [G-16], *Area Conventions* [G-20], and *Participation in Area A.A. Conventions* [G-7].)