

# Alateen Training Module IV - Re-Certification

## About this Course

### Course Description

There will be challenges in Alateen service. This three parts course focuses on the types of challenges an AMIAS may face and the tools and resources available.

### By the end of this course, you should be able to

- Know the resources of people and materials available to you.
- Know the tools you can use.
- Be aware of the types of challenges in Alateen service.

### Prerequisites

Initial AMIAS Training Modules I, II, and III.

### Target Audience

AMIAS needing to re-cert by May.

### Course Completion

To receive credit for this course, you must successfully pass the three final assessments for Part A, Part B, and Part C with a score of 80% or higher, e.g. Part A 8/10, Part B 10/12, and Part C 8/10. Follow the instructions at the end of the course to receive credit. Completions and scores will be sent to the WA Area Alateen Coordinator and the WA Area Alateen Safety Coordinator.

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Next

# Alateen Training Module IV - Re-Certification

## About this Course (continued)

### Time Required

This course takes approximately two hours to complete.

### Navigation Information

The Previous slide arrows are at the middle left side of the slides. The Next slide arrows are at the middle right side of the slides.

< At the End and Assessment slides for Part A, B, and C, the right arrow will return to the Home slide. >

### System Requirements

This course is designed to run in Microsoft Internet Explorer and Mozilla Firefox. This course may not run on an Apple iPad, tablet, or phone and may not run correctly on an Android tablet or phone.

### To Begin Course

To begin this course click the Next arrow, middle right.

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## Alateen Training Module IV

### Dealing with Challenges in Alateen

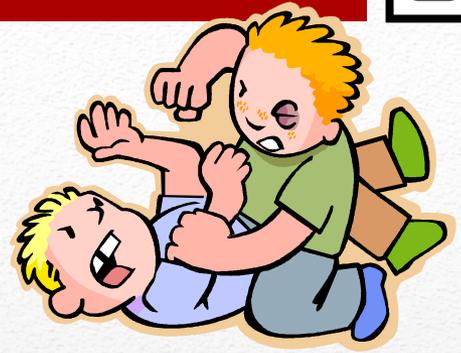
#### Part A:

Safety/Legal matters

Behavior problems in the group

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# Safety/legal issues



- Matters of physical safety are not negotiable and not up to the group.
- Alateen Group Sponsors have the responsibility to insure that the meeting is a safe place. *“Engaging in roughhousing, fighting, overt and covert sexual behavior, or any other inappropriate activities before, during, and after an Alateen meeting or event can put you or your group in a dangerous position...”* (from *Alateen Safety Guidelines*, G-34)
- Be familiar with your Area Alateen Requirements, Area Alateen Process, and local laws.
- Research local resources and hotline phone numbers that could help a child with a dangerous or abusive situation.





# Safety/legal issues

## Mandatory and Permissive Reporters

Washington State law defines two types of reporters of suspected abuse: Mandatory reporters and Permissive reporters.

### **Mandatory Reporters**

According to RCW 74.34.020(10), mandatory reporters are:

- DSHS employees
- Law enforcement
- Social workers and professional school personnel
- Individual providers and operators of a facility
- Employees of social service, welfare, mental health, home care, home health agencies
- County coroner or medical examiner
- Christian Science practitioner
- Health care providers under RCW 18.130, such as physicians, nurses, and naturopaths, among others

### **Permissive Reporters**

If you are not a mandatory reporter, then you are a permissive reporter [RCW 74.34.035]. Washington State law encourages persons other than mandatory reporters to make a report when they have reason to believe that abuse, abandonment, neglect, or self-neglect, is, or has, occurred. Persons other than mandatory reporters are called “permissive reporters.”





## Safety/legal issues

# Mandatory reporting

- “Child abuse laws relating to mandatory disclosure usually refer to individuals performing in a professional capacity, and not as volunteers. It is advisable that the laws in each state/province/country be investigated, because they do vary from place to place. Where reporting is required, there is no choice but to comply with the law.” (*Alateen Safety Guidelines*, G-34)
- **If reporting is mandatory, how do we prepare the Alateens?**

If a mandated reporter is present, the Alateens must be made aware of this at every meeting, before sharing begins, so that they have a choice in the subjects they share. If it becomes necessary to report something, do it as an interested and concerned adult, not as a representative of Al-Anon or Alateen.

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# Who Can Report Child Abuse and Neglect?

WA State says: Any person who has cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse or neglect should report such incidents.

## Those people legally required to report child abuse or neglect are:

- Medical practitioners
- Nurses
- Dentists
- Social service  
Counselors/therapists
- Psychologists
- Medical examiners
- Pharmacists
- School personnel
- Child care providers
- Law enforcement officers
- Juvenile probation officers
- Corrections employees
- DSHS employees
- Placement and liaison specialists
- Responsible living skills program staff
- HOPE center staff
- State family and children's ombudsman
- Any volunteer in the ombudsman's office
- Adults residing with child suspected to have been severely abused

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/ca/child-safety-and-protection/>





# Safety/legal issues

## When thinking of reporting

Whether reporting is mandatory or not:

- Start by discussing the matter with the Area Alateen Coordinator, DR, or other trusted servants according to the Area Process.
- Before reporting, discuss your intentions with the Alateen member.
- Follow advice of legal counsel regarding keeping identities anonymous.
- Any reporting is done as an individual, not as an Alateen Group Sponsor or AMIAS.

**(Taken from the *Alateen Safety Guidelines*, G-34\*)**

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## Safety/legal issues

Finding the balance among Concept Three and Traditions Two & Four.

**Concept Three:** The right of decision makes effective leadership possible.

< This tells us the right of decision makes effective Alateen Group Sponsorship possible: within the framework of their job description, it should be traditional for Alateen Group Sponsors to decide which matters they can handle on their own, and which they will report, consult others, or ask specific direction. >

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## Safety/legal issues

Finding the balance among Concept Three and Traditions Two and Four

**Tradition Two:** For our group purpose there is but one authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants—they do not govern.

- The Al-Anon solution to group problems is found in **Tradition Two**, which refers to “trusted servants.” Alateen Group Sponsors are trusted servants to the Alateen group and to the Al-Anon fellowship. **There is accountability.**
  - Alateen Group Sponsors do not govern or own their Alateen groups.
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# Safety/legal issues

Finding the balance among Concept Three and Traditions Two & Four

- **Tradition Four:** Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other Alateen and Al-Anon Family Groups or A.A. as a whole.
- Know what the Tradition means.
  - What types of matters fall under group autonomy?
  - What matters might affect other Alateen groups as a whole?
  - Al-Anon Groups as a whole?
  - A.A. as a whole?
  - How can we determine the difference?





# Safety/legal issues

## Keep the focus on safety

What are some common sense ways to keep the focus on safety?

- Transport Alateens in a group and with another adult.
- Do not transport Alateens without parental permission.
- Obtain permission/medical care forms when required.
- Be gender & number conscious.





## Behavior problems

# Setting boundaries with Alateen members

- Treat Alateens with respect.
- Demonstrate Al-Anon principles with what you say and do.
- Do not accept unacceptable behavior.
- **How can we accomplish this?**
  - Use “I” messages, sharing our own feelings about the situation.
  - Don’t be afraid to ask a disruptive Alateen to leave the meeting.
  - Ask for help from other AMIAS.





## Behavior problems

Identify physical safety issues vs. group behavior problems.

**The group can set the rules before there is a problem!**

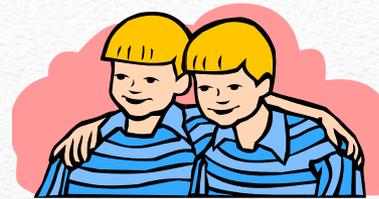
Group problems might be:

- Dominating the discussion in meetings.
- Rudeness.
- Getting off topic.
- Lack of self-discipline.
- Age differences.



# Behavior problems

# Siblings



Are asked to:

- Be peers in the meetings.
- Keep family rivalry or problems out of the group.
- Keep each other's confidences.

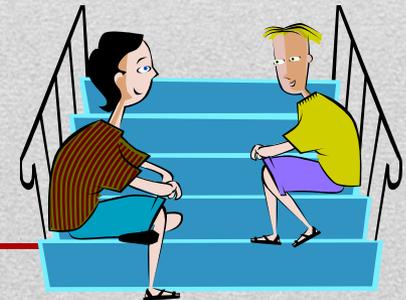




## Behavior problems

# Addressing a problem in the Alateen group

- When there is disruptive behavior in the group, both group members and Alateen Group Sponsors can ask members to stop.
- If attempts to resolve a behavior issue directly with the individuals have not worked, the behavior may need to be discussed by the group.
- For example, the group might discuss, “how will we handle use of cell phones and texting during our meetings?”

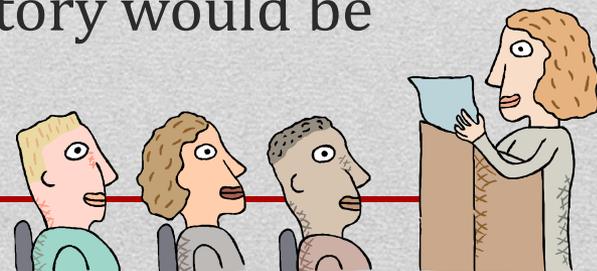




## Behavior problems

# Addressing a problem in the Alateen group

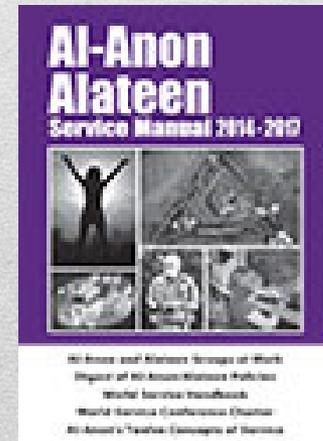
- **Say the Serenity Prayer.** Then either the Alateen Group Sponsor or an Alateen member may share the problem in a general way with the group, inviting discussion.
- Encourage the Alateens and Alateen Group Sponsors to **apply the Traditions** to the situation and to stick to Al-Anon/Alateen principles.
- The group may decide to update their behavior guidelines, including actions to take with violators.
- The group may decide a group inventory would be helpful.



## Behavior problems

# Alateen resources in our literature and service tools

- *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* (P-24/27)
- *Alateen: Hope for Children of Alcoholics* (B-3)
- *Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions for Alateen* (P-18)
- Al-Anon/Alateen guidelines, Alateen Service e-Manual, the *Service Manual* and guidelines are available at: [al-anon.org/members](http://al-anon.org/members)





# Behavior problems

## A group inventory may help

- Taking group inventory can help to prevent problems, as well as to identify them and find solutions.
- Giving the Alateens responsibility for their meeting or event can deepen their commitment to upholding behavior requirements.
- Resource: *Taking a Group Inventory* guideline (G-8a/b)



***“Participation is the key to harmony.” (Concept Four)***



Behavior problems

# Group conscience vote



- The next step is to discuss “taking an informed group conscience” with the group.
- After the matter is discussed and voted on, the group honors the opinion of the majority.
- When the Alateen group determines its own behavioral guidelines and the process for dealing with violations, the group members will monitor their own behavior.





# Alateen Training Module IV

## < Dealing with Challenges in Alateen **End of Part A.**



Click on link to proceed to

**Part A Assessment**

*A total points of 8/10 or higher is required to go to Part B.*

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