

A.A. Bridging the Gap/ Temporary Contact Program

Bridging the Gap

Part of Bridging the Gap between an individual in a facility and A.A. is the Temporary Contact Program, which is designed to help the alcoholic in an alcoholism treatment program make that transition.

As you know, one of the more "slippery" places in the journey to sobriety is between the door of the setting and the nearest A.A. group or meeting. Some of us can tell you that, even though we heard of A.A. within the facility, we were too fearful to go.

The video *Hope: Alcoholics Anonymous*, shown to clients in treatment, emphasizes the importance of having a *temporary contact* as the essential link between treatment and recovery.

It is suggested that the temporary contact take the newcomer to a variety of A.A. meetings; introduce him or her to other A.A.s; insure that he or she has phone numbers of several A.A. members and share the experience of sponsorship and a home group.

Dear A.A. Member,

We have a program in this area called The A.A. Bridging the Gap/Temporary Contact Program. If you are interested, you can be matched upon your discharge to an A.A. member in your home community. This Temporary A.A. Contact volunteer will take you to up to six A.A. meetings, introduce you and help you get acquainted and comfortable in A.A. During this time you will learn more about sponsors, home groups, working A.A.'s Twelve Steps and service.

Your Bridging the Gap 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 such other services. You will undoubtedly hear the five basic suggestions for sobriety that the Fellowship shares with all members: 1) Don't drink; 2) Go to meetings; 3) Read the Big Book; 4) Call your sponsor and 5) Work the Steps.

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

Individuals who are soon to be discharged may need to accelerate their request through the BTG Coordinator or the Area Corrections & Treatment Committee volunteers. Let them know if you need immediate processing.

Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as "substance abuse." Non-alcoholics 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.

Bridging the Gap/ Temporary Contact Request Form

I am within three months of my discharge date. I would like to have an A.A. Temporary Contact who will provide a link for me to the A.A. community through meetings and introduction to other A.A.s.

Name: _____

SEX: Male Female

Doc Number: _____

Facility: _____

City: _____

Province or State: _____

Zip or Postal Code: _____

Discharging to: (Town or Area): _____

Date of Discharge: _____

City: _____

Province or State: _____

Zip or Postal Code: _____

Daytime Phone : _____

Please mail to:

Central Service Office
Attn: Bridging The Gap
47 Portland Street
Portland, ME 04101