

## Here is what A.A. says about A.A

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for A.A. membership. We are self-supporting through our own contributions.

Alcoholics Anonymous is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization, or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes

Our primary purpose is to stay sober and to help other alcoholics achieve sobriety.

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**“I am responsible . . .  
when anyone,  
anywhere, reaches out  
for help,  
I want the hand of A.A.  
always to be there.  
  
And for that,  
I am responsible.”**

## What A.A. & Bridging the Gap Does

Helps people with a desire to stop drinking find a solution to their problem. Helps the new member adjust to A.A. meetings and the A.A. fellowship outside of institutions.

## What A.A. & Bridging the Gap Does Not Do

- Furnish initial motivation
- Solicit members Charge dues or fees
- Operate clinics or drying out facilities
- Operate clubs
- Provide housing, meals, or transportation
- Keep membership records
- Follow up on errant members
- Control its members
- Hold classes
- Practice medicine, psychiatry, or nursing
- Offer religious services or professional counseling
- Accept money from non-members
- Do research
- Join councils or social agencies

The A.A. volunteers who bring meetings to your facility can assist you with the *Bridging the Gap* program and answer questions about temporary contacts.

## Please Note

If you are released before making final arrangements for a temporary contact, call the Alcoholics Anonymous office nearest to where you are staying. The number can be found online or in the white pages of the phone book. They may be able to help you find a *Bridging the Gap* contact in your area or a meeting nearby.

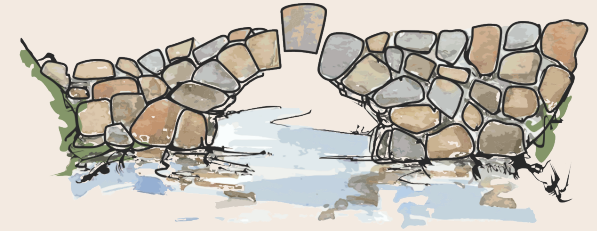
### For more information contact:

btg@area59aa.org  
corrections@area59aa.org  
tf@area59aa.org

**To reach *Bridging the Gap*  
after your release:  
Call 717-746-8494**

For A.A.s on the *Inside*

# Bridging the Gap



## Prerelease Contact Program



## • NEW MEMBER GUIDE •

Connecting *Inside* A.A. Members  
to the *Outside* A.A. Community



EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA  
GENERAL SERVICE ASSEMBLY  
area59aa.org

## Bridging the Gap Request Form

I am within three months of my release date. Please arrange an A.A. temporary contact who will provide a link and introduce me to Alcoholics Anonymous in the community.

### Your Name

\_\_\_\_\_

M / F Age \_\_\_\_\_ DOC # \_\_\_\_\_

Facility \_\_\_\_\_

### Facility Address

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Release Date \_\_\_\_\_

Facility Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Home or Release Address

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Please tear off and return this form to the volunteers.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Or:  
Complete the  
form online.**  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Dear A.A. Member,

*Bridging the Gap* is a program to help you make the transition from meetings in a facility to the Fellowship outside. If you would like to participate, you can be matched after your release with a member close to where you live. This temporary contact will go with you to as many as six meetings, introduce you to other members and help you become comfortable in your new A.A. surroundings. During this time you will most likely find out more about home groups, sponsors, working the steps and service.

Your pre-release contact is temporary only. The volunteer member will accompany you to meetings, answer questions and help explain the A.A. program of recovery. They will not provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money, or other such services. You will probably hear the same basic suggestions shared with all members; don't drink, go to meetings, read the Big Book, call your sponsor and work the steps.

Experience has shown that attending a meeting as soon as possible after release is very important in making a sober adjustment to a new way of life. Many of us have been where you are now and we know the A.A. program and the Fellowship can do for you what it has done for us.

Alcoholism is sometimes linked together with other addictions as substance abuse. Non alcoholics are frequently introduced to Alcoholics Anonymous and encouraged to attend meetings. Although any visitor who is interested in A.A. may attend open meetings, only those with a drinking problem are meant to attend closed meetings.

## Program Procedures

1. As an inside A.A. member you are eligible for this program if you are within three months of your release date.
2. Please fill out the attached form and return it to the A.A. volunteers or mail it to the BTG coordinator. You will find addresses at the bottom of the request form and on the back of this pamphlet.
3. An outside member will contact you within two weeks to confirm your request and your discharge information. Please notify the BTG coordinator or the volunteers if you haven't received a confirmation within that time.
4. You and the temporary contact will make arrangements to meet after your release. Be sure to verify your information such as the date of your release, when you will arrive in the local area, the address where you will be staying and a phone number where you can be reached.
5. The temporary contact will meet you at an agreed upon time and place to attend your first meeting together in the local community.
6. A Bridge the Gap relationship is intended to make your transition from "inside" to "outside" meetings as comfortable as possible. There isn't a fixed schedule but usually after six meetings together the temporary contact will rotate to help the next new member.

### Please Note:

Inmates and treatment clients subject to early release need to make arrangements with their BTG providers to speed up the process. See the other side of this pamphlet for contact information regarding unusual circumstances.