

Suggestions for Bridging the Gap Volunteers – Do’s and Don’ts

What A.A. and Bridging the Gap Does

1. Helps people with a desire to stop drinking to find a solution to their problem.
2. Helps the new member adjust to the A.A. Fellowship outside of institutions.

What A.A. and Bridging the Gap Does Not Do:

<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Furnish initial motivation.2. Solicit members.3. Charge dues or fees.4. Operate clinic or drying-out facilities5. Operate Clubs6. Provide housing, meals, or transportation.7. Keep membership records.8. Follow-up on errant members.9. Control members.	<ol style="list-style-type: none">10. Hold Classes.11. Practice medicine, psychiatry, or nursing.12. Offer religious services.13. Offer professional counseling.14. Accept money from non-members.15. Do research16. Join councils or social agencies.17. Loan money.
--	--

“Do” List

1. Take the new member to a meeting within the first Twenty-four hours of release.
2. Take another member of the fellowship on this Twelfth Step Call.
3. Explain to the new member that this is a temporary commitment, usually limited to six visits.
4. Make sure the new members receive meeting schedules, phone numbers, literature and Big Book.
5. Encourage them to attend meetings as often as possible, emphasize the importance of the home group.
6. Explain the importance of sponsorship: share how you got your sponsor.
7. Refrain from profanity, off-color jokes, prolonged drunk-a-logs and other types of self-indulgence.
8. Respect full anonymity of new members at all times.
9. Keep in touch with your sponsor and your High Power.

“Don’t” List

1. Don’t become responsible for the members attitude or actions in or out of the meetings.
2. Don’t become a personal taxi service.
3. Don’t let the new member dictate where to go for the meetings.
4. Don’t allow any emotional or romantic relationship to develop.
5. Don’t act in any reporting or communicating capacity regarding the new member and the justice system or treatment facilities.
6. Don’t intercede in behalf of any individual affected by decisions of the administration.
7. Don’t forget you are not in control, you are not God.