

We've now identified the problem, so we should also identify the solution.

Our solution relies on the strength of our service committees; namely PI and H&I. Our PI committees would inform the related facilities and outside enterprises of our default and put them into contact with our H&I committees. Our H&I committees could then ensure that the NA message and meeting schedules are carried to the potential addicts that are under the direction of the legal system or treatment industry. These individuals would then have the choice to come and go, freely and anonymously, into or out of Narcotics Anonymous; just as any other addict does.

In conclusion, As Groups we need to remember what our literature says, "We are not connected to any political, religious, or law enforcement groups, and are under no surveillance at any time." We want the place where we recover to be a safe place, free from outside influences. When we inform related facilities and outside enterprises that we do not sign verification attendance papers our meetings become a much safer place for addicts to recover. We feel totally free to express ourselves within the Fellowship, because no law enforcement agencies are involved.

We are free, and we will not put our freedom on the line.



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Literary Work in progress.
Please copy & share this with your
local home group for Review and
Input.

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Why We Don't Verify Attendance Documents



Literary Work in Progress
Input & Review
Material Only

In Narcotics Anonymous we are asked to do many things; as individuals and as groups. We may be asked to clean up after ourselves, to not bring drugs or paraphernalia into a meeting, or to not share if we have used today. These requests are easy to understand and it is simple enough to see how they fall in line with our Traditions. One thing that we are asked to do on a regular basis is to sign meeting attendance documents. How does this action relate to our literature? Well, it doesn't.

Our Sixth Tradition tells us, "An NA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the NA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, or prestige divert us from our primary purpose". A dictionary defines endorse as, "to approve, support, or sustain", related as, "connected by reason of an established or discoverable relation", and outside as, "not belonging to or connected with a specified institution, society, etc...". When we sign or stamp meeting attendance documents, whether it is our intent or not, we are endorsing related facilities and outside enterprises. We are providing our approval and support to the treatment industry and judicial system; by doing so we are helping to sustain them.

The rest of this Tradition goes on to relate why we don't do these things. Lest is defined as, "for fear that", and prestige is defined as, "weight or credit in general opinion – influence". In plain terms, we do not endorse related facilities or outside enterprises for fear

that their influence will divert us from carrying the message to the addict who still suffers.

Our Tenth Tradition asserts that "Narcotics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the NA name ought never be drawn into public controversy". A dictionary defines opinion as, "a personal view, attitude, or appraisal", outside as, "not belonging to or connected with a specified institution, society, etc...", issue as, "a point or matter of discussion, debate, or dispute". When we sign or stamp meeting attendance documents, whether it is our intent or not, we are giving an opinion on outside issues. We are agreeing that an individual is an addict and that they should be forced to meetings in order to satisfy a legal judgment, employment requirement, or professional opinion; all of which are outside issues.

Our Twelfth Tradition relates that "Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities". Anonymity is defined as, "the quality or state of being unnamed or unacknowledged". When we sign or stamp meeting attendance documents, whether it is our intent or not, we are naming someone as an addict and acknowledging that they have attended a meeting. In "Tradition Twelve" of the Basic Text it says, "anonymity makes us all equal", and "no member is greater or lesser than any other member". By endorsing attendance papers we create a relationship of

dominance and subservience; due to the person's dependence on our signature or stamp.

Anonymity is inherent to placing principles before personalities. In a dictionary principle is defined as, "an accepted or professed rule of action or conduct", and personality is defined as, "the pattern of collective character, behavioral, temperamental, emotional, and mental traits of a person". By providing our endorsement we are allowing the emotional and mental traits of our personalities to guide our behavior and letting the accepted rules of action contained in our Traditions fall to the wayside.

Our literature also gives us a series of warnings:

"We keep what we have only with vigilance..."

"As long as the ties that bind us together are stronger than those that would tear us apart, all will be well"

"Personal recovery depends on NA unity," and that unity depends on how well we follow our Traditions".

"Our Traditions protect us from the internal and external forces that could destroy us". "The Twelve Traditions of NA are not negotiable. They are the guidelines that keep our fellowship alive and free".