

"A Message to Administrators"

BRIDGING THE GAP

What AA **Does** and
What AA **Doesn't** Do

WHAT AA & BTG DOES:

1. Helps people with a desire to stop drinking, find a solution to their problems

WHAT AA & BTG DOES NOT DO

1. Furnish initial motivation.
2. Solicit members.
3. Charge dues or fees.
4. Operate clinics or drying-out facilities.
5. Operate clubs.
6. Provide housing, meals, or transportation.
7. Keep membership records.
8. Hold classes.
9. Practice medicine, psychiatry, or nursing.
10. Offer religious services.
11. Offer professional counseling.
12. Accept money from non-members.
13. Loan money.

Alcoholics Anonymous Statement of Purpose:

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 AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions.
- AA 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 help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

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Bridge the Gap

By-

Extending the Hand of Alcoholics Anonymous



Connecting Treatment Facility A.A. Members To the Outside A.A. Community

Dear AA Member,

AA in this Area has a Program available for you when you are released. Upon your release, we offer the Bridging the Gap Program (BTG)

The Bridging the Gap Program is offered to you to help you make the transition into the AA fellowship in your local neighborhood. This means that you can sign up to be matched to an AA member on the outside, in your home community upon release.

This AA member will take you to meetings, and introduce you around to help you get acquainted and become comfortable among your new friends in AA. During this time you learn about sponsors, home groups, working the steps, and service.

Your BTG Volunteer is temporary (a maximum of six meetings or visits is suggested as a guideline). However, by working together, both of you will know when you mutually feel the time has come for the Prerelease Contact to move on to someone new.

He or She is not affiliated with any institution or treatment facility, but is simply someone who has had the same difficulty, and who has found a solution. There are no strings attached, nothing but a sincere desire to be helpful. Your temporary contact will not provide you with housing, food, clothing, jobs, money or other such services.

Past experiences has shown that attending AA meetings on the outside, immediately after release (within the first 24 hours), is one of the most effective tools in making a sober transition into the free world. Many of us have been where you are and have experience, strength and hope to share about recovery, AA, and the fellowship.

If you are within four weeks of release and wish to participate in the Bridging the Gap program, please complete the attached "Prerelease Request." Form and mail it to the address provided. When the committee receives it they will contact a BTG Volunteer who will in turn contact you and arrange to meet with you on the day of your release. If you are not contacted by a volunteer within two weeks, please contact us, and we will have someone get in touch with you.

A.A. Treatment Center Prerelease Contact Program Procedures

1. As a treatment Center AA member you are eligible for this program if you are within 4 weeks of your release date.
2. Please fill in the attached form and mail it to the address provided at the bottom of the application.
3. The Prerelease Contact will write you to Confirm contact. If the Prerelease Contact fails to contact you within a few weeks, you should write again.
4. You and the Prerelease Contact will set up a meeting at the time of your release. Please provide, on the prerelease form, such information as date of release, when you will arrive in the local area and an address and phone number where you may be reached.
5. The Prerelease Contact will meet you at an agreed upon time and place to help you

adjust to attending your first meetings in the local community.

Prerelease Request

I am interested in having someone in the AA program meet me when I am released. I understand the importance of making contact with people in the AA program on the day of my release and getting to a meeting.

I am requesting an AA Bridging the Gap Contact who will provide a link for me to the AA community through transportation to meetings and introductions to other AA members.

Name: _____

Last: _____

Sex: Male _____ Female _____

Treatment Center: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Releasing to: (Town or Area) _____

Date of Release: _____

Address after Release: _____

Phone Number: _____

I would like to make a commitment to attend an AA meeting within 24 hours of my release. I understand that the AA Bridging the Gap Contact volunteer is not an AA Sponsor.

**BTG – Area 93.
606 Alamo Pintado #140
Solvang, CA 93463**