Anonymity

The experience of our groups suggests that the principle of anonymity—summed up in Tradition Twelve as "the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions"—has three elements: There is anonymity as it applies outside Al-Anon/Alateen, governing our contacts with the general public, the media, and professionals; anonymity within the fellowship; and anonymity as it contributes to our personal growth.

Anonymity Outside Al-Anon/Alateen

Anonymity and the General Public

When dealing with the general public it is important to use discretion in revealing one's Al-Anon/Alateen membership. In settings where there is no media involved (health fairs, speaking to community groups or schools, etc.), members are free to use their full names, if they are comfortable doing so.

Anonymity and the Media

Tradition Eleven gives a specific guideline: "we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, films, and TV." It is Al-Anon/Alateen policy to interpret Tradition Eleven to include the Internet as well as all forms of evolving public media. Personal anonymity in the media guards the fellowship from the Al-Anon/Alateen member who may be tempted to seek public recognition.

When speaking or writing as an Al-Anon/Alateen member in any form of press, radio, films, TV, Internet, or other evolving public media, members use only their first names and last initial or pseudonyms. Members can also speak without identifying themselves or sign articles "Anonymous."

Photographs, video, film, or Web postings in published or broadcast media should not reveal full face images of those identified as members.

On any Web site accessible to the public, whether an Al-Anon site or not, members' full names and faces are not posted if they are identified as Al-Anon/Alateen members.

Anonymity and Professionals

It is important to make Al-Anon/Alateen known through our public outreach work with the many types of professionals who

come into contact with families suffering from the effects of someone else's drinking. When working with professionals, Al-Anon and Alateen members are more credible and effective when they give their full names and contact information. While personal anonymity is not required in outreach to professionals, it is helpful to inform the professionals of the importance of anonymity and confidentiality in Al-Anon/Alateen.

Note: Alateen members must comply with local laws and their Area Alateen requirements regarding personal anonymity in all public outreach work.

Electronic Communication outside of Al-Anon

E-mail provides a quick and easy way to communicate the Al-Anon/Alateen message to the media and professionals. Members' business e-mail addresses should not be used for Al-Anon/Alateen outreach, as they could imply affiliation, and may not be confidential to the member.

Web-based communication, such as on-line audio/visual materials (e.g., Web casts or podcasts), social networking sites, and blogs, provides members with easy access to distribute information about Al-Anon/Alateen recovery to a large audience. In keeping with Tradition Eleven ("Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, films, and TV. We need guard with special care the anonymity of all AA members."), members who use this type of communication outlet must maintain their personal anonymity and that of any Al-Anon/Alateen or A.A. member, as the Internet is a form of media.

Anonymity Within Al-Anon/Alateen

Members use their full names within the fellowship when they wish. The degree of anonymity a member chooses (first name, pseudonym, or full name) is not...

Finances

In keeping with our Seventh Tradition, Al-Anon is supported by members' contributions and from the sale of our literature. All contributions are used to meet expenses for worldwide services, including a portion of the operating expense of the World Service Conference. Members may contribute in the following ways: