

# Bridging the Gap/Speaker Form

## Between "Treatment Facility" and AA Through "Temporary Contact Programs"

Part of Bridging the Gap between a treatment programs, which is designed to help the alcoholic in an alcoholism treatment program make that transition. As you know, one of the more "slippery" places in the journey to sobriety is between the door of the facility and the nearest AA group of meetings. Some of us can tell you that even though we heard of AA in treatment, we were too fearful to go.

AA experience suggests that attending meetings regularly is critical. In order to Bridge the Gap, AA members have volunteered to be temporary contacts and introduce newcomers to Alcoholics Anonymous. The video "HOPE ALCOHOLIC ANONYMOUS" shown to patients in treatment emphasizes the importance of having temporary contact as the essential link between treatment and recovery.

It is suggested that the temporary contact take the new comer to a variety of AA meetings, introduce him or her to other AA's insure that he or she has the phone numbers of several AA members, and share the experience of sponsorship and a home group.

### TEMPORARY CONTACT GUIDELINES

Keep in mind that this is basic Twelve Step work. Experience suggests that it is best to be accompanied by another AA member when meeting our newcomer. One of the two temporary contacts should have at least one year of sobriety. Experience also suggests that men work with men and women work with woman. The intent is to provide the newcomer with your help for a limited time. You need not have experience with treatment facilities. Your qualifications are experience as an alcoholic and recovery in AA. It may be helpful for you as a temporary contact to attend workshops on bridging the Gap and attend meeting of your areas treatment facility committee. Remember, the goal of both AA and the treatment facility is the same, the recovery of the alcoholic. In all contact or activities with treatment facilities it is extremely important to be punctual and to look your best.

### TRY TO DO THE FOLLOWING

Make contact with the newcomer while he or she is still in treatment. To avoid any misunderstanding, explain clearly that this is a TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT. Be familiar with, and explain the paper "Information on Alcoholics Anonymous". Review the many different

meeting formats, cover the difference between "OPEN" and "CLOSED" meetings, particularly the section on what AA does and does NOT do. Accompany the newcomer to a variety of meetings. Give the newcomer an AA meeting list. Introduce the newcomer to AA Conference approved books (BIG BOOK), pamphlets and the AA Grapevine. Explain group membership and the value of having a home group. Explain sponsorship to the newcomer, referring to the pamphlet "Questions and Answers on Sponsorship" and perhaps help the newcomer to find a sponsor.

### IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP

If you would like to help with this VERY IMPORTANT "Twelve Step" work and have achieved one year of continuous sobriety in the AA program. Please complete the following information and forward to our District 02 Treatment Bridging the Gap program.

**Bridging The Gap Treatment  
P.O. Box 2632  
Appleton, WI 54912  
AA Hotline: 920-731-4331  
tfc@district02aa.org**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Sex (circle)    M    F

### Please circle the area(s) you can help in:

1. Speaking @ Treatment Facilities
2. Temporary Contact BTG