

# Group Safety Inventory

## INTRODUCTION

“Safety is an important issue within AA---one that all groups and members can address to develop workable solutions and help keep our meetings safe based on the fundamental principles of the Fellowship.” ([Safety and AA: Our Common Welfare SMF-209](#))

The long form of Tradition One: “Each member of Alcoholics Anonymous is but a small part of a great whole. AA must continue to live or most of us will surely die. Hence our common welfare comes first. But individual welfare follows close afterward.” Have we considered what our responsibility is in maintaining safety for all as a part of our common welfare so that our group can fulfill its primary purpose?

When we do not challenge and stop inappropriate behavior, it implies that the offender has permission to repeat the unsafe behavior and can encourage others to follow suit.

The most important approach your group can take is to be **PROACTIVE** about safety.

- 1. Increase awareness among members of potential and existing safety issues.**
- 2. Have a plan in place if and when these issues arise.**

The strongest defense a group can have resides in a clear group conscience on how the group will act when disruptive, unsafe, or illegal behavior occurs.

The following are a series of questions to help your group conduct an inventory on the safety of your meeting.

## **DISRUPTIVE/INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOR**

Each group will define disruptive and inappropriate behavior differently since it is a gray area in terms of what is acceptable. Behaviors that are tolerated by one group may not be appropriate in a different group.

1. Is our group aware that the Third Tradition (“The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking” does NOT mean we tolerate behaviors that disrupt our meeting or threaten our members, or that it grants immunity from group guidelines or the group conscience?
2. What behaviors do we consider inappropriate?
3. What behaviors do we consider disruptive?
4. Is inappropriate behavior occurring toward any of our members outside of the meeting (such as on social media, in the parking lot, in private correspondence, or in a relationship with another meeting member) that is making them feel unsafe to return to the meeting?
5. Do we have a strategy in place for addressing inappropriate or disruptive behaviors?
6. Do we have key members of our group who are good at diplomacy and diffusing a difficult situation? Who might be the best members to gently suggest going outside to talk, or to take the person aside after the meeting?
7. What actions do we take when a member is repeatedly disruptive or acts/shares inappropriately?
8. Does our group conscience clearly empower the meeting chair or secretary to say something if a member is sharing offensively? Or have we empowered all members of our group to take action?
9. Is our strategy for inappropriate/disruptive behavior written down as the group conscience to help us act fairly and consistently when it occurs?

## **HARASSING/BULLYING/VIOLENT BEHAVIOR**

1. Is sexual or any other form of harassment (such as stalking) occurring inside or outside our meeting (including social media)?
2. Is predatory sexual behavior such as “13th stepping” occurring in our meeting group, or fellowship?
3. Is violent behavior or threats of violence, including domestic or dating violence, occurring inside or outside our meeting?
4. Do any of our members bully other members verbally or physically?
5. Is financial coercion by a member occurring in our meeting?
6. Do any of our members try to pressure other members into a particular point of view or belief relating to medical treatments and/or medications, politics or religious belief?
7. Do we have a strategy in place for addressing harassment, bullying or violence inside or outside the meeting?
8. Is our strategy for harassing/bullying/violent behavior written down as the group conscience to help us act fairly and consistently when it occurs?

## **ILLEGAL BEHAVIOR**

1. Is our group aware that the Third Tradition (“The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking” ) does NOT put anyone above the jurisdiction of the law, that calling the proper authority does not go against any AA Traditions, and that anonymity is not a cloak protecting criminal behavior?
2. Are any illegal behaviors or activities occurring in our group?
3. Do we have a strategy in place to address illegal behavior if and when it occurs?

4. Is our strategy for addressing illegal behavior written down as the group conscience to help us act quickly and effectively to protect the safety of our members?

## **INTOLERANT BEHAVIOR**

1. Is there racial, sexual orientation or gender identification intolerance or discrimination expressed in our meeting?
2. Do any of our members express a political perspective in our meeting that may make other members feel uncomfortable or unsafe?
3. Is our group tolerant and welcoming toward members who are atheists or agnostics?
4. How does our group address intolerant behavior?
5. What actions can our group take to be more open and welcoming toward both our members and newcomers to promote an atmosphere of safety?

## **RESOURCES**

1. Is our group aware of the following AA service materials about safety available from the General Service Office and District?

<https://district04cnca.org/safety-in-aa/>

2. Have we made them available to our members?

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This inventory has been compiled by District 04, Santa Clara North in Area 06 due to the work and examples from Oregon, Area 58; New York, Area 47; and Great Britain's Safety Material.