





# **Sponsorship Behind The Walls**

A first of anything is a beginning.

# **Purpose**

To carry the message of recovery to the addict who still suffers behind the walls and allow them to experience the miracle of recovery and a new way to live through the 12 steps of NA, despite their limited access to Narcotics Anonymous and sponsorship while incarcerated.

# **Carry the message**

This may well be one of the most rewarding things you do for your recovery. The primary purpose of this group is to provide Sponsorship, through the mail, for inmates who desire to work the Twelve Steps of Narcotics Anonymous.

It is our purpose to provide sponsors who are willing to correspond with any inmate who has the desire to work the steps.

It is our hope that in our correspondence we will help the suffering addict find the solution that we have found. Our purpose is to remain clean, just for today, and to carry the message of recovery.



# **Volunteer as Sponsor**

Sponsorship Behind The Walls

# What we need

Volunteer Sponsors to work the steps of Narcotics Anonymous with incarcerated sponsees via mail letter writing. Sponsor anonymity will be maintained. Sponsor requirements:

1. Three years clean time.
2. Have worked the 12 steps of Narcotics Anonymous and can carry a clear NA message.
3. Have a sponsor; have experience being a sponsor.
4. Ability to pay for own postage (workgroup may be able to help, if necessary).
5. Willing to go through SBTW Orientation annually, abide by workgroup and facility guidelines.
6. Respond to sponsee letter within 2 weeks of being received.

# Correspondence Guidelines

In observing the rules of the correctional Facilities regarding mail and correspondence, the following are suggested guidelines from shared experience to help you when writing NA members on the "Inside":

1. Potential sponsors must have at least **3 year clean time**, and be actively participating **with a sponsor**.
2. In keeping with Tradition Twelve, we respect the **anonymity of our correspondents**. All correspondence will be sent through a post office box, with a correspondence coordinator to forward mail to other members who are participating in the SBTW's program. **No personal contact in person or by phone is permitted**. All correspondence should be received through the Regional Service Committee. Never give out your address or phone number. For your own anonymity and protection, it is suggested you use your first name only or a pen name if you choose.
3. When we engage in this type of service, it should always be men writing to men, women writing to women. We believe it is best that **no romantic involvements** develop.

# Correspondence Guidelines

4. Never write anything you don't want the world to read. All **correspondence** is opened and subject to **monitoring by the institution**.
5. **Correctional Facilities have rules** for sending literature. Most correctional facilities only allow inmates to receive literature directly from the publisher, so you should always check with a facility before mailing books or literature. Photocopies are usually accepted. Most facilities do not allow inmates to receive stamps or pre-addressed, stamped envelopes.
6. If an inmate requests an NA book from you, **the committee will send** the inmate, upon your request, an Introductory Guide to Narcotics Anonymous.
7. NA members with **correctional facility and H&I clearances** may not correspond with inmates in those facilities.
8. Keep always in mind that you are **representing a service subcommittee** when interacting with sponsees. **We do not have opinions on outside issues.**



# Correspondence Guidelines

9. We introduce ourselves briefly in our opening letter so the addict can get to know and identify with us. We always stay **focused on recovery**, offering them the solution not the problem
10. Remember, it only takes two addicts to have a meeting, writing is no different, so let the inmate know that like in all forms of sharing, this helps us as much as it helps him or her. **Let them know they are never alone.** We share our experience, strength, and hope, and being clean in recovery. Since change happens as a result of working/ applying the principles behind the 12 steps of recovery, we encourage you to **be a step-writing guide** through that process.
11. Encourage the inmate **to participate in twelve step meetings** available to them in the facility.
12. **Prior to their release**, we strongly suggest sending them an area/regional meeting schedule where they will be released. It is important to **have a "game plan"** and knowledge of meeting places the first day they get out.



# **What We Can Do For You**

Getting in touch with a sponsor

# **How It Works**

We are recovering addicts who are members of Narcotics Anonymous, we have set up an NA committee to give inmates the chance to work the steps by letter with an NA sponsor.

## **What a sponsor can do for you**

A sponsor will guide you through the steps of Narcotics Anonymous and will answer all questions to the best of his/her ability regarding the NA program, and Narcotics Anonymous as a whole.

## **What a sponsor can't do for you**

A sponsor will not send money or gifts. Although a sponsor may be able to arrange for NA literature to be sent in. A sponsor will not visit you.

## **How to get in touch**

Send your request to our regional service office. It will then be forwarded to your appointed NA sponsor who will reply promptly: [sbtw@committee.org](mailto:sbtw@committee.org)

Please remember your mail is subject to normal censorship procedures within the prison service.

# Letter to Sponsee

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

Sponsorship Behind the Walls (SBTW) just received your letter. Our subcommittee is designed to help addicts in prisons who are requesting help to work the steps of Narcotics Anonymous. We are recovering addicts who volunteer our time to share our step and tradition writing experience. We commend you for reaching out to us in an effort to enhance your recovery!

SBTW provides a sponsor who will guide you through the steps and traditions while you are incarcerated. All correspondences will be letter-based and if you need access to literature or other NA materials, please let us know and we can see about getting those items to you. Upon your release, all correspondences between yourself and SBTW will stop. Keep your sponsor up to date on your time of release to ensure the most of your time together.

We suggest the following items below to assist with your transition into NA in your area. You can work with your sponsor for suggestions and meeting lists to prepare you for your release. We include this material now so that you always have it available to you.

# **Letter to Sponsee**

As we identify a sponsor for you, we would like to share some questions with you to get you writing and thinking further about your recovery. You've already taken a great first step by reaching out to us!

**What do you hope to get from SBTW?**

**What can you do for your recovery each day?**

**What led you to see recovery now?**

When we get your response to the above, your sponsor will write you back. You're never alone. Narcotics Anonymous promises us that through working this program we can find relief from our obsessions to use drugs. Every addict who stays clean is proof of this miracle and all it takes to belong is the desire to stay clean.

Good luck and we hope to see you in the rooms of NA soon.

Yours in recovery,

Sponsorship Behind the Walls

# Literature

Pamphlets „Behind The Walls“

Pamphlets „Sponsorship“

Magazine „Reaching Out“

Book „Just For Today“



# Upon Release

Upon release please follow these suggestions:

1. Prior to your release, check with the volunteer or addiction services staff at your institution to obtain a meeting schedule.
2. You can also call the hot line number in your area.
3. At your first meeting, let people know who you are and that you're new. Get phone numbers, a current meeting list (if you don't already have one), and start your search for a sponsor.
4. Don't hang out in the same places with the same people
5. Most importantly—don't use no matter what!!

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