12 Concepts of Narcotics Anonymous



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The Twelve Concepts summarize a vast amount of experience in NA service, experience we would all do well to consider and apply wherever appropriate.

They are the spiritual principles to guide the NA service structure in supporting the groups.

1st Concept

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Responsibility

The primary responsibility of an NA group is to conduct its recovery meetings. The service structure ensures that other services are fulfilled effectively without distracting the groups from their own primary purpose.

2nd Concept

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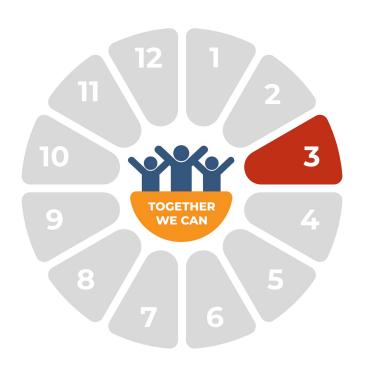


The service structure must always look to the groups for support and direction.

The groups have final responsibility for and authority over the service structure they have created.

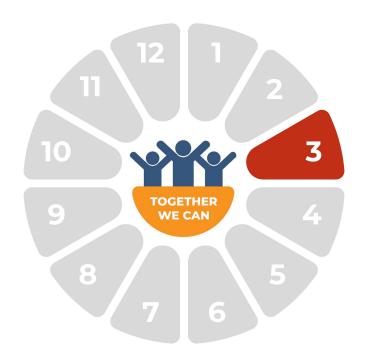
3rd Concept

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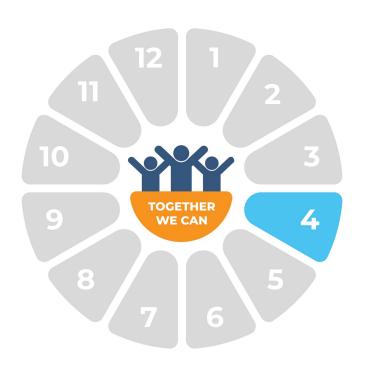


Delegated practical authority is not a blank check, the groups still bear final authority.

To make this work, we must carefully select trusted servants.

4th Concept

Effective leadership is highly valued in Narcotics Anonymous. Leadership qualities should be carefully considered when selecting trusted servants.



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Leadership

Leaders help us organize, focus our energy and resources, and act in unity. Without good leaders it will be challenging, if not impossible, to achieve these goals.

For each responsibility assigned to the service structure, a single point of decision and accountability should be clearly defined.



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Accountability

We need to eliminate confusion about who has authority to do what. Whoever is given the authority will be held accountable for the fulfillment of that task.

6th Concept

Group conscience is the spiritual means by which we invite a loving God to influence our decisions.



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Spiritual Guidance

We need to bring the spiritual awakening of the Twelve Steps to bear in making service-related decisions. It is not, however, merely a euphemism for "voting" and is not itself the NA decision-making process.

All members of a service body bear substantial responsibility for that body's decisions and should be allowed to fully participate in its decision making processes.



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Participation

NA service is a team effort. The full participation of each member of the team is of great value as we seek to express the conscience of the whole.

8th Concept

Our service structure depends on the integrity and effectiveness of our communications.



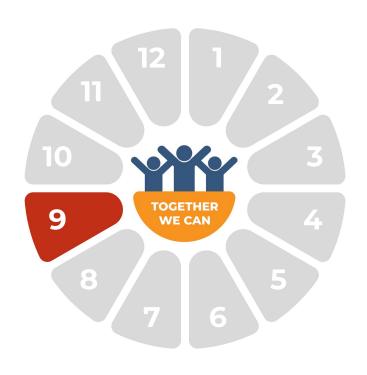
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Communication

Regular communication is essential to the integrity and effectiveness of our services themselves.

All elements of our service structure have the responsibility to carefully consider all viewpoints in their decision-making processes.



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Open-Mindedness

To check judgment, to guard against hasty or misinformed decisions, and to invite the sharing of new ideas, our services must consider all viewpoints when making plans. This is essential to the development of a fair, wise, balanced group conscience.

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Fairness

The Tenth Concept encourages us to treat each other with respect and provides us with a means of making amends when we wrong others.

11th Concept

NA funds are to be used to further our primary purpose, and must be managed responsibly.



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Finances / Responsibility

The sole absolute priority for the use of NA funds: to carry the message.

The importance of that priority calls for total fiscal accountability.

Direct contributions to each level of service help us to enhance accountability.

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Service, not Government

Within the context of the Twelve Concepts, as a body, this concept serves much the same function as Tradition Twelve in the context of the traditions. It brings our consideration of concepts for NA service back to the spiritual root of selfless service.

The full fruit of a labour of love lives in the harvest and that always come in its right season.

From the preface of the Basic Text.



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