



1. Background:

From WSO Web site: "Alateen is part of Al-Anon, which helps families and friends of alcoholics recover from the effects of living with the problem drinking of a relative or friend. Alateen is our recovery program for young people. Alateen groups are sponsored by Al-Anon members."

Alateen groups have been a part of Ontario South for many years.

As of 2004, the Board of Trustees of Al-Anon Family Groups, requires that every area have a process for registering Alateen Groups, Alateen Sponsors and any Supportive Al-Anon Member (SAM) involved with Alateen.

(Please note that on all WSO documents SAM is referred to as AMIAS)

Every Sponsor is a SAM, but not every SAM, is a Sponsor. See Frequently Asked Questions, page 3, for clarification.

Certain steps must be followed before a group may be established or a member may be an Alateen Sponsor or Supportive Al-Anon Member.

Excerpt from OSA motion October 2005:

"An environment of trust and safety must exist. It is the responsibility of Al-Anon and Alateen as a whole to work together to maintain a healthy, loving, and supportive environment."

2. Affirmation of appropriate conduct within the Alateen Program

There must:

1. Be at least **ONE** Al-Anon sponsor present at every Alateen meeting.
2. Be no conduct contrary to applicable laws. Such conduct is prohibited.
3. Be no overt or covert sexual interaction between any adult and any Alateen member within the Alateen program. Such conduct is prohibited.
4. Be procedures for signed parental permission and medical care for Alateen members who will be in the care of an Alateen Sponsor or SAM, for any event that is not a regular Alateen meeting (held on a regular basis at a fixed location), and which may or may not involve travel to another location.

3. Registration Process for SAM:

Instructions on how to apply for SAM certification are found in Section 11B. The process has been reviewed by legal counsel and approved by WSO.

FORM C: SUPPORTIVE AL-ANON MEMBER (SAM), SCREENING
APPLICATION AND CERTIFICATION FORM

and

WSO Form Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service

Both may be found in Section 10, and are available from your DR or the Ontario South web site.

4. Registration Process for an Alateen Group:

Instructions on how to register an Alateen Group are found in Section 11C.

WSO Form Alateen Group Registration Form is found in Section 10, and is available from your DR or the Ontario South web site.

5. Additional Safety Guidelines:

A motion was received by the Chairperson at AWSC 2005 (but was not tabled) that a committee be formed to make recommendations about Alateen safety issues not already addressed in the Behavioural Requirements. It was felt that additional safety guidelines would be helpful. The Executive took action and, as suggested in the motion, formed a small committee of the Alateen Coordinator, two Sponsors and two Alateens. The result was the development of Sections 11D and 11E in this manual.

Draft versions of Sections 11D and 11E were distributed at AWSC 2007.

They were posted on the Ontario South website.

The Alateen Coordinator circulated them by email several times to Alateen Sponsors.

This was to allow members to review and comment.

In April 2008, at an Ontario South Workshop for Sponsors/SAMs and Alateens the guidelines were discussed in depth, amended, and by blind ballot vote, adopted by those present.

6. Frequently asked questions:

Q. **Who needs to become certified to work with Alateen members?**

A. Every Al-Anon member who participates in Alateen service work in Ontario South must be certified annually to WSO as one of Alateen's Supportive Al-Anon Members (SAM), including every:

- **Alateen group sponsor**, whether a committed, temporary, emergency or probationary;
- **Al-Anon member who serves as an Alateen Co-ordinator**, at the area or local level;
- **Al-Anon member who serves as an Alateen advisor** on any conference planning committee.
- **Al-Anon member** that is willing to drive Alateen members to events.

Q. **How can we get an Alateen group started in our town/city?**

A.

- Make sure you have certified sponsors and register the Alateen group.
- Contact your District Representative for the forms you need to fill out.
- Find a location, hopefully where there is an Al-Anon meeting, an AA meeting, or both.
- Ask Al-Anon members to help distribute posters or flyers with the starting date, place, time etc.

- Ask Al-Anon groups to announce the Alateen group details at their meetings.
- Have a 'tent card' on display at every group showing the details of the closest Alateen meeting.
- When registered, inform the local Information Service, telephone service (whatever is in place in your district) that an Alateen group has opened and provide the details of time, place etc.

Q. Can an Al-Anon member who is also a member of AA be an Alateen Sponsor?

- A. Service Manual, Starting an Alateen Group, states "an Al-Anon member who is also a member of AA and who meet their Area's certification requirements may sponsor Alateen meetings."

Q. What is the difference between a Sponsor and a SAM?

- A. Every Sponsor is a SAM, but not every SAM, is a Sponsor. At a workshop of SAMs, held in 2008, these comments were noted.

SAMs: attends Al-Anon weekly; drives Alateen members to events (with the required forms when necessary); helps on committees to support Alateen members; helps to ensure enough SAMs are present in Alateen meeting rooms at events other than regular weekly meetings.

Sponsors: attends Al-Anon weekly; is a SAM and may give service in any of the ways listed under SAMs; listens; is an emotionally available adult; attends Alateen meetings weekly (or as a back-up when required); is a responsible adult; follows guidelines; attends sponsor meetings if held in the district or area; able to give good guidance to Alateens on how to use the Al-Anon/Alateen program.

7. Resources:

There are many resources available to help Alateen Sponsors provide "An environment of trust and safety" (Excerpt from OSA motion October 2005).

Read all parts of Section 11 from OSA Policies and Procedures Manual.
Read CAL Literature related to Alateen and Alateen Sponsorship.

There are several WSO Guidelines related to Alateen and are available on the WSO web site. <http://www.al-anon.org/members/index.html>. As noted on screen, enter your group name or part of a group name and 'afg' to access the site. Click on Group Services then Guidelines.

- G-5 Alateen Meetings in Schools
- G-7 Al-Anon/Alateen Participation in an AA Area Convention
- G-16 Alateen Conferences
- G-19 Starting an Alateen Group
- G-20 Al-Anon/Alateen Area Conventions
- G-34 Alateen Safety Guidelines