

<p align="center">Al-Anon Family Groups, the Fellowship</p>	<p align="center">Al-Anon Family Group, Headquarters, Inc., the Organization</p>
	<p>The purpose of this presentation is to give you some information about our history and how Al-Anon Groups and the World Service Office came to be. We will explain the relationship and differences of Al-Anon Family Groups the Fellowship and Al-Anon Family Group, Hqtrs, Inc., the Organization. Additionally, when we finish our visit with you, we hope you will have gained a better understanding of how you as a member of an /Al-Anon Family Group is connected to Al-Anon Family Group, Hqtrs, Inc, and its world services.</p>
<p><i>BACKGROUND:</i> The Family Group idea is nearly as old as Alcoholics Anonymous. In AA's pioneering days from 1935 to 1941, close relatives of recovering alcoholics realized that to solve their personal problems they needed to apply the same principles that helped alcoholics with their recovery.</p> <p>By 1948, numbers of Family Groups had applied to the A.A. General Service Office for listing in the A.A. Directory, and scores of relatives of alcoholics asked them for help. But as we know, A.A. was designed to aid</p>	

<p>alcoholics only.</p> <p>By 1951, two wives, Lois Wilson and Anne Bingham, formed a Clearing House Committee to get in touch with these 87 inquirers and to coordinate, unify and serve them; 56 groups responded. As a result of questionnaires, the name Al-Anon Family Groups was chosen. The name is simply a derivative of the first syllables of “Alcoholics Anonymous.”</p>	
	<p>BACKGROUND: Soon, the movement came to public attention. New groups and individuals here and abroad wrote to the Clearing House about their problems. By 1954, a small paid staff became necessary.</p> <p>In 1954, Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc., incorporated and was granted tax-exempt status in 1956 as a non-profit organization under section 501 (C)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.</p> <p>Tax-exempt status was similarly granted to Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters (Canada) Inc. in 1999 under paragraph 149(1) of the <i>Income Tax Act</i> of Canada.</p> <p>We file tax returns annually in both countries and those returns are available for your information</p>

	<p>on our Members' Web site.</p> <p>As with any Corporation, a Board of Trustees was appointed. Originally, the Board was made up of close friends of Lois who resided in the NY City area.</p> <p>NOTES:</p> <p>File a 990 annually</p> <p>Has about 47 employees, with Executive Director</p> <p>Board of Trustees with 18 volunteer members plus the Executive Director who is a sustaining member and serves on the Board as the Board Secretary.</p> <p>The members of the BOT are the owners of the corporation.</p>
<p>There is a distinction between Al-Anon Family Groups, the fellowship, and me.</p> <p>Pull Fellowship Sign</p>	
	<p>Al-Anon Family Group, Headquarters, Inc., the organization. Pull Organization Sign</p> <p>So, with this background of how we came to be we will explain further.</p>
<p>I am the Traditional arm</p>	
	<p>I am the legal arm</p>

<p>While I continued to meet in rooms around the world, it was not until 1961 that Al-Anon's largest group conscience was created - the World Service Conference. And in 1970, the World Service Conference approved the Twelve Concepts of Service, which outlines the spiritual principles that bind together Al-Anon the fellowship...</p>	
	<p>and Al-Anon Family Group, Hqtrs., Inc.</p> <p>Being the legal arm, I am responsible to protect our logo, our copyright and our name.</p>
<p>Since I am the traditional entity, I provide for meetings and a service structure that will ensure that our meetings have what they need to support our members.</p>	
	<p>I conduct the business of Al-Anon.</p>
<p>I provide the support for individual members and their recovery on a daily basis.</p>	
	<p>My governance document is the by-laws for the Corporation. The By-laws of the Corporation appear periodically in the World Service Conference Summaries. The Corporation by-laws are amendable only by the Board of Trustees.</p>

<p>My governance document is the WSC Charter. It can be found on page 171 of the current Service Manual. The Charter can only be amended by the World Service Conference.</p>	
	<p>Even though legal requirements put responsibility for the organization of Al-Anon in the hands of the Board of Trustees, Lois and the pioneers always sought to share leadership with the fellowship of Al-Anon, and to seek as broad a group conscience as possible. It is therefore that I acknowledge the World Service Conference as the ultimate traditional authority.</p> <p>I recognize that through the authority of the Conference Charter, that the Conference may bring about a reorganization of the WSO if or when it is deemed essential and may request the resignation of the whole Board and nominate a new slate of Trustees.</p>
<p>While I am the Traditional and informal entity for the fellowship, I recognize the Board of Trustees as the chief service arm of the Conference and has the legal authority to serve the fellowship and to act as it deems appropriate.</p>	

	<p>I serve and preserve the Organization.</p> <p>Protection of our name, logo and copyright is my responsibility.</p> <p>The Board of Trustees meets quarterly and is responsible for the oversight of the Organization.</p> <p>We have delegated full authority for routine management of Al-Anon Headquarters to an Executive Committee that meets monthly. This is noted in Concept Eight.</p>
<p>Al-Anon Family Groups meet every day, in many places all over the world. Anyone can start a group.</p> <p>Concept One places the ultimate responsibility for world services in the hands of the Al-Anon groups. This is why it is important for a group to have a Group Representative (GR). GRs are linked by group conscience to the World Service Conference.</p> <p>We, the Al-Anon Groups have delegated complete administrative and operational authority to the World Service Conference and its service arms. I further know that with the right of decision that we give to our elected representatives, it makes effective leadership possible. For</p>	

<p>something that is supposed to be unorganized we sure have some organization.</p>	
	<p>The roles, responsibilities, and relationship between the Conference and the Board are explained in the Conference Charter and in Concepts Six and Seven. These spiritual principles are based on our other two legacies, the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions.</p> <p>In accordance with Concept Ten, I ensure that double headed management is avoided by carefully defined authority and service responsibility.</p>
<p>I get it. When there is business to be conducted, other service entities can elect to be organized too. But it is the Groups that do not organize. I do not exist in the eyes of the law.</p>	
	<p>I do exist in the law and am legally responsible for AI-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc.</p>