



**1. Excerpts 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.

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.

**2. WSO Guideline G-34- Alateen Safety Guidelines:**

This Guideline provides guidance to:

- Alateen members
- Alateen Sponsors and SAMs

This guideline is very comprehensive and covers:

- What to do if any member is uncomfortable with the actions of a Sponsor
- Safety at meetings
- Transportation
- Acceptable behaviour
- Setting boundaries
- and many other important points

It is developed from the shared experience of Al-Anon/Alateen members, but is not a substitute for knowing and obeying the law in our area.

Read G-34 and follow it.

Have a copy of G-34 in your group binder and inform the Alateen members about the issues covered by the guideline. Suggestion: Read one section at the group's business meeting.

**3. Forms:**

Forms can be found in Section 10.

FORM A: Information and Permission Form

FORM B: Medical Form.

These forms are required when an Alateen member is under the care of a Sponsor/SAM. They have been adapted from the standard WSO forms, to meet the needs of Ontario South, as passed at Assembly 2005.

**4. Other suggestions:**

1. Take a group conscience to decide how new Sponsors will be introduced to the Alateen group. One suggestion is that a new Sponsor visits the group to experience being a part of an Alateen group, and to see if they, and the Alateen members feel comfortable. If all goes well, the new Sponsor can be asked to attend six meetings, before the Alateen members take a group conscience, to accept the new Sponsor.
2. Take a group conscience once a year to determine if the Alateen members are comfortable with all Sponsors.
3. Keep a list of contact information in the group binder that includes:
  - Alateen Group GR
  - Group Sponsors
  - Other Group Sponsors in the district
  - DR
  - Area Alateen Coordinator
  - OSA Executive.
4. Add a statement to the preamble 'if at any time you are uncomfortable please talk to another Sponsor. A list of names is available in the binder.'
5. Share on personal and group sponsorship.
6. Have 'Sponsors' as a topic.
7. Have Group Sponsors visit other Alateen Groups, after Alateen members of host group have taken a group conscience. This would allow Sponsors and Alateen members to feel comfortable should there be a need to step in to cover an Alateen meeting.
8. Encourage Alateen groups and their Sponsors to invite other Alateen groups and their Sponsors to their regular meetings.

## **5. Creation of the 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.