



# Electronic Alateen

## AWSC 2026

Good afternoon! I am going to review the background information that was contained in your package and also provide some new information that I've learned at the World Service Conference, since your AWSC package's background document was distributed. Then we'll have some additional context that I hope will help clarify what can appear to be a very complex topic. After that, we'll open the floor for discussion.

## Background

- ▶ Electronic Alateen meetings must be in accordance with the World Service Conference Structure Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements (WSC EASBR).
- ▶ This conversation dates back to 2020.
- ▶ A course of action was presented to the World Service Conference in 2023.

The Board of Trustees and the World Service Conference have been discussing potential electronic Alateen meetings hosted by the Areas. Ontario South needs to decide whether we would like to opt in as an Area. If Ontario South proceeds with electronic Alateen meetings, they must be done in accordance with the World Service Conference Structure Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements (WSC EASBR).

This conversation around electronic Alateen groups stretches back to 2020, when the Board of Trustees began studying the feasibility of electronic Alateen groups. A project team collaborated with Al-Anon's international structures to better understand global legal implications around adults interacting with minors. The 2022 World Service Conference discussed a potential solution to support electronic Alateen groups.

The Board of Trustees was provided with a comprehensive report and proposed course of action for the project team to pursue. This was presented to the 2023 World Service Conference, where additional feedback allowed the Board to define the next steps.

## Background

- ▶ The 2024 World Service Conference was provided a conceptual framework of what would be needed.
- ▶ New terminology:
  - World Service Conference Structure Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements, or WSC EASBR
  - ▶ Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service serving electronic Alateen groups or AMIAS-E
- ▶ Delegates discussed the topic at the 2025 World Service Conference and gathered Area feedback.

2024 World Service Conference members were provided with a conceptual framework for what would be required to support electronic Alateen groups and were asked for additional feedback from their Areas. This contributed to new terminology in support of electronic Alateen groups in the WSC Structure:

- World Service Conference Structure Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements, or WSC EASBR, and
- Al-Anon Members Involved in Alateen Service serving electronic Alateen groups or AMIAS-E

The topic was discussed at the 2025 World Service Conference and delegates were asked to gather information from their Areas. Background information was included in the 2025 Delegate's Report to the AWSC and Assembly, where feedback was invited. The topic was also discussed with Ontario South's Alateen Co-ordinator and the then-Area Alateen Process Person about the feasibility, as well as potential effects and implications.

## Background

- ▶ Delegates were provided with draft copy of the WSC EASBR.
- ▶ One set of minimum requirements for entire World Service Conference structure.
- ▶ No changes can be made by Areas to the WSC EASBR document.

Delegates were provided with a draft copy of the World Service Conference Structure Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements (WSC EASBR). Because teens attending electronic Alateen meetings could come from any Area, this document sets the minimum requirements for electronic Alateen across the entire World Service Conference structure, and needs to meet the most stringent requirements of any jurisdiction within that geography. If an Area opts in to hosting electronic Alateen meetings, the document must be accepted by the Area, as-is. **No changes can be made to the document.**

## Background

- ▶ Teens need to be interviewed and vetted before the electronic meeting.
- ▶ The AMIAS-Es need to know the teen attending.
- ▶ No sharing lists of vetted teens between electronic Alateen groups.

Because of the global nature of the internet, teens could be able to attend an electronic Alateen meeting from anywhere in Canada, the U-S or Bermuda – those countries are the World Service Conference structure.

Teens can't just show up at an electronic Alateen meeting unannounced, either alone or with a friend. They need to be interviewed beforehand by an AMIAS-E in each meeting they want to attend.

This is because the AMIAS-Es in that meeting need to know the teen who's attending. This process includes showing photo identification and providing emergency contact information for a custodial parent or legal guardian.

Each electronic Alateen group needs to maintain its own list of vetted teenagers.

They cannot share their lists of vetted teens between groups because the AMIAS-Es in that meeting need to already know the teen who's attending.

## Points to consider

- ▶ Earliest possible rollout date (in other Areas) is September 1, 2026.
- ▶ Not having electronic Alateen has no effect on in-person Alateen.
- ▶ AMIAS-E minimum requirements align with Ontario South's existing requirements.
- ▶ WSC EASBR is beyond Area autonomy; no changes can be made.

As Ontario South considers this topic, there are some points to remember:

- The earliest potential rollout date for electronic Alateen meetings hosted by the Areas is September 1, 2026. That date is new information learned at Conference, after your background document was prepared.
- If Ontario South decides not to have electronic Alateen meetings, our Area would still be able to have in-person Alateen groups, meetings and events that comply with Ontario South's Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements.
- The AMIAS-E minimum requirements (be mandated reporters, passing a criminal background check) align with existing requirements for current AMIAS in Ontario South.
- The World Service Conference Structure Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements (WSC EASBR) go beyond Area autonomy and **no changes can be made to the document.**

## New Information

### Ontario South AMIAS

- ▶ Police Records Checks (PRCs) required every **THREE** years.

### AMIAS-E

- ▶ Police Records Checks (PRCs) required every **TWO** years.

There is some new information that I have received after your background document was prepared.

AMIAS-E's would be required to obtain a police records check every **two** years.

Current AMIAS requirements in Ontario South include obtaining police records checks every three years.

This difference is because the AMIAS-E requirements need to be consistent across the World Service Conference structure and meet the most stringent legal requirements of any jurisdiction in Canada, the U-S and Bermuda.

## New Information

- ▶ Each Area will be responsible for creating its own internal procedures.
- ▶ WSO will not review or approve these procedures.
- ▶ The Area's signed WSC EASBR is the formal commitment.

We cannot make changes to the WSC EASBR but each Area will be responsible for creating its own internal procedures to support the WSC EASBR. These procedures may look different from one Area to another, and that is expected.

The World Service Office will not review or approve these procedures, because the Area's signed WSC EASBR is the formal commitment. The procedures simply reflect **how** each Area chooses to carry out that commitment within its own structure.

## But what about hybrid meetings?

- ▶ Included in WSC EASBR;
- ▶ Must have AMIAS in the physical room plus an AMIAS-E online;
- ▶ "Hybrid" Alateen meetings do not need to close.

In-person Alateen meetings with an electronic component are often referred to by our members as "hybrid" meetings.

Hybrid meetings are included in this documents. The Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements will need those meetings to have an AMIAS in the physical room AND an AMIAS-E online.

Sara Smith, the director of programs, spoke about an idea that's apparently making the rounds in the Areas, which is that hybrid Alateen meetings have to close immediately. This is not a World Service Office staff directive. If you hear that, or you think I've told you that, then please talk to me so we can figure out where the wires got crossed.

## But what if we say no?

- ▶ Alateen members living anywhere in the World Service Conference structure can attend any electronic Alateen meeting that is part of the WSC structure.

What we're discussing is whether to have electronic Alateen meetings as part of our Area service structure.

We're not discussing whether Ontario South Alateen members should be allowed to attend electronic Alateen meetings.

Not opting in has no effect on in-person Alateen in Ontario South.

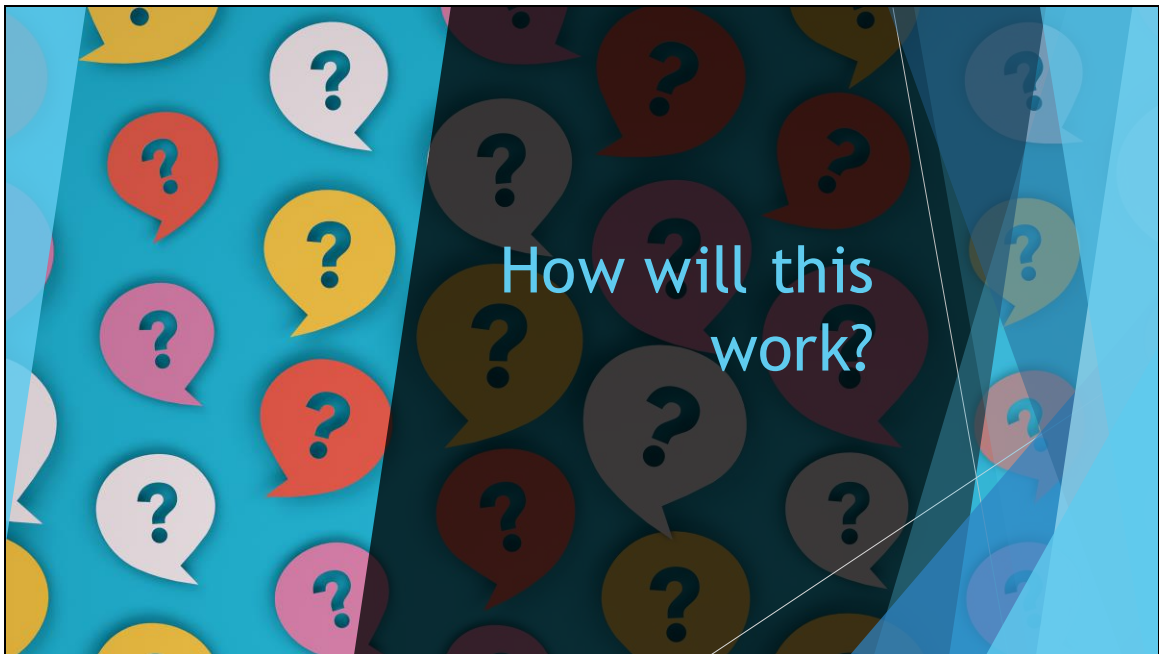


## Electronic Alateen training sessions

To help implement Electronic Alateen, a series of virtual meeting training sessions are being set up for Area public servants. These include Delegates, Alternate Delegates, Area Alateen Process Persons and Alateen Co-ordinators. The World Service Office will train us, and then we will be the ones training AMIAS-Es in our Areas, if our Areas opt in.

The first training module has been scheduled for August and there are plans for another in October. The sessions are open to these Area trusted servants even if their Area has yet to opt in.

The earliest our Area could opt in is this November, when our Assembly meets.



So what will all this look like? How will I get certified? Can I support electronic Alateen meetings in other Areas?

The three skits that follow were performed at the World Service Conference. I hope they will provide clarity in simple, real-life scenarios of how an AMIAS-E may support Electronic Alateen Groups in the World Service Conference structure.



## Scenario 1:

# Serving as an AMIAS-E in the same Area where you reside

Narrator: Welcome to our first stop on the Implementation Train: how an AMIAS-E serves in the Area where they physically reside. The current Policy for Alateen, found in the Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies in the *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual*, establishes that certification and recertification occur in the Area in which the member physically resides. This maintains legal compliance, protects teens and AMIAS, and keeps processes consistent across the fellowship.

Ontario South member: Hello! I live in Ontario South, which has opted in to support electronic Alateen groups, and I'd like to serve as an AMIAS-E to ensure teens in my Area have access to additional opportunities for recovery! What do I do first?

Ontario South AAPP: Your journey begins with AMIAS certification. This includes adherence to Ontario South's certification process to serve as an AMIAS found in Ontario South's Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements. You will also need to submit the required forms for certification and recertification annually. This matters

because Ontario South has the responsibility to ensure compliance with the 2003 Alateen Motion from the Board of Trustees, Alateen Policy, Area ASBR, and to maintain your records.

Narrator: The member completes all AMIAS requirements and is certified to move forward.

Ontario South AAPP: Great! You are now an AMIAS. (Prop – Hand AMIAS their AMIAS Badge) Your next stop is AMIAS-E certification. Since Ontario South has opted in, you are eligible to become an AMIAS-E. In adherence to the WSC EASBR, you must complete a background check every two years, agree to serve as a mandatory reporter, and complete AMIAS-E training. Remember: Ontario South will always be responsible for your AMIAS and AMIAS-E certification and annual recertification, even if you later serve electronically in additional Areas.

Narrator: The certification is complete. You are now ready to serve electronic Alateen groups connected to the Ontario South Area. (Ontario South AAPP Hands the AMIAS their AMIAS-E Badge.

The image is a graphic with a dark blue background on the left and a light blue background on the right. The text is white. The left side says 'Scenario 2:' and the right side says 'Serving as an AMIAS-E in a different Area than where you reside'.

## Scenario 2:

## Serving as an AMIAS-E in a different Area than where you reside

Narrator: Welcome to our next station on the Implementation Train! This stop explores how an AMIAS-E resides in one Area and serves electronically in another. The current Alateen Policy establishes that AMIAS certification always occurs in the Area where the member physically resides. When AMIAS-Es serve in another Area electronically, AAPPs must communicate directly to ensure safety and accountability.

Ontario South Member: Hello! I live in Ontario South, which has opted in to support electronic Alateen groups. I'm already certified as an AMIAS for Ontario South and I'd like to serve in Texas West. What do I do next?

Ontario South AAPP: Because you reside in Ontario South, all certification responsibilities remain with Ontario South.

Narrator: The member completes AMIAS-E Certification process in Ontario South.

Ontario South AAPP: You are now certified as an AMIAS-E. Texas West must now confirm your certification with me before you can support electronic Alateen groups in Texas West.

Ontario South Member: [to Texas West AAPP] Texas West, I would like to serve your electronic Alateen groups.

Texas West AAPP: [to Ontario South AAPP] Before your Ontario South Member can support Texas West, can you verify the following: Has Ontario South opted in to support electronic Alateen groups?

Ontario South AAPP: Yes

Texas West AAPP: [to Ontario South AAPP] Has your Ontario South Member certified as an AMIAS and AMIAS-E?

Ontario South AAPP: Yes

Texas West AAPP: [to Ontario South AAPP] Are your Ontario South Member's background checks and AMIAS-E training current?

Ontario South AAPP: Yes

Texas West AAPP: [to Ontario South AAPP] Will Ontario South recertify this member annually?

Ontario South AAPP: Yes

Texas West AAPP: [to Ontario South AAPP] Great! Thank you for confirming that your Ontario South member is certified!

Texas West AAPP: [to Ontario South Member] You may now serve in Texas West.

Ontario South Member: [to Texas West AAPP] I look forward to supporting electronic Alateen groups in Texas West.

Texas West AAPP: [to Ontario South AAPP] Thank you again for your support! I look forward to talking to you next year during the annual recertification process to ensure your Ontario South Member's annual recertification has been processed so they can continue to support Texas West.



Scenario 3:

## Serving in the Global Electronic Area (GEA)

Narrator: This stop explains how AMIAS-Es in physical Areas may serve in the Global Electronic Area. Certification always occurs in the Area where the members physically reside. The Global Electronic Area's AAPP verifies that the member is certified in their physical, WSC structure Area. The Global Electronic Area does not certify.

Ontario South Member: I live in Ontario South and want to help make it possible for the GEA to offer Electronic Alateen meetings. I understand that AMIAS-E certification can only come from the Area in which I reside.

Narrator: Ontario South handles all certification, background checks, mandatory reporter agreements, training, and records.

AMIAS E #2 Saskatchewan: I live in Saskatchewan and want to serve in the GEA.

Narrator: Saskatchewan holds identical responsibilities.

AMIAS E #3 BC/Yukon: I live in BC/Yukon and want to serve the GEA.

Narrator: BC/Yukon holds identical responsibilities.

GEA AAPP: Before you each can serve, your AAPPs must verify the following:

- The Areas where you physically reside have opted in to support electronic Alateen groups
- You are currently certified as an AMIAS and AMIAS-E
- You have a current background check and have completed the AMIAS-E training
- The Areas in which you physically reside will agree to be responsible for your annual recertification

GEA AAPP: [walk over to Ontario South AAPP]: Please confirm.

Ontario South AAPP: Confirmed.

GEA AAPP: [ walk over to Saskatchewan AAPP]: Please confirm.

Saskatchewan AAPP: Confirmed.

GEA AAPP: [walk over to BC/Yukon AAPP] Please confirm.

BC/Yukon AAPP: Confirmed.

GEA AAPP: [to all AMIAS-Es] You are all now welcome to serve the GEA's electronic Alateen groups.

GEA AAPP: [to All AAPP's] – Thank you again for your support for electronic Alateen groups in the GEA! I look forward to talking to each of you next year during the annual recertification process to ensure your members' annual recertifications have been processed so they can continue to support the GEA. Also please remember, you will need to submit an updated background check every two years to ensure members' background checks are current!

- ▶ AWSC decides whether to place this on the Assembly agenda
- ▶ GRs would decide at Assembly whether to opt in to the WSC EASBR
- ▶ Area trusted servants would develop processes to support WSC EASBR



What's next?

Thank you to our actors today!

So what happens now?

Today, we decide as the Area World Service Committee whether to forward this matter to the Assembly for discussion.

If we decide yes, then the Group Reps would decide whether Ontario South opts in to the World Service Conference Structure Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements, or WSC EASBR.

If they decide yes, then the Area's trusted servants would develop the processes and procedures to support implementing that, and would begin training Ontario South members who want to be AMIAS-Es.



I know this has been a lot to absorb. Thank you for your thoughtful attention to this presentation. I will now turn the podium back to our chairperson to lead the discussion about where we'd like to go from here.