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On Being Friendly with Our Friends

Many AA members find themselves occasionally wondering what attitude to take toward workers engaged in other-than-AA programs, and treatment facilities in the field of alcoholism. Each member's choice is of course his own, but as a guide, the 1965 General Service Conference, representing through its elected Delegates the AA Groups of the United States and Canada, issued a recommendation that will prove helpfully clarifying to many members. It is printed below.

The Editors

The Conference Committee on Relations with Other Agencies Recommends:

1. That Delegates establish lines of communication with Directors of tax-supported and voluntary Alcoholism Programs in their areas.
2. That the Conference reaffirm the comment on question #16 in the pamphlet "Cooperation But Not Affiliation" and request publication of the following in the AA Grapevine:

"Experience shows that AA Groups and Intergroups or Central Committees should not operate or manage these ventures. Individual AAs frequently set up such related facilities, being careful not to use the AA name in solicitation, advertising and publicity. These ventures are usually set up on a nonprofit basis, incorporated under the charitable and educational laws of the state and excluding 'Alcoholics Anonymous' from their names.

"Hospitals and rest homes and other community rehabilitation aids bear the same relationship to AA Groups, Intergroups or Central Committees as do any other outside agency. With full cooperation of the Groups in the community they are used for referral, provided AA's Tradition of non-endorsement and non-affiliation is made clear.

"Since these ventures are separate from the Fellowship, it is advisable that they operate under names which do not link them to AA — under names other than '12th Step House,' 'Alanon House,' etc."

3. That in accordance with past procedure, the "World Directory" should not be made available to other organizations because of its confidential nature.
4. That the title of the Conference Committee on Relations with Outside Organizations be changed to the Conference Committee on Relations with Other Agencies.