



Prison Sponsorship (PS) Sub-Committee.

DEDICATION AND PURPOSE.

The primary purpose of this sub-committee is to provide sponsorship through the 12 steps of Narcotics Anonymous with any addict currently imprisoned desiring our help with personal recovery.

PRISON SPONSORSHIP GUIDELINES.

In addition to observing the rules of the Prison Service regarding mail and correspondence, the following are guidelines for us to follow when writing to addicts in prison seeking recovery through the 12 steps of NA.

1. In our introduction we qualify ourselves as addicts so that the addict in prison can get to know and identify with us. We let them know that we are willing to correspond with them by letter and to act as a sponsor in order to guide them through the steps if they so choose.
2. We let them know that writing, like all forms of sharing, helps us as much as it helps them and that they are no longer alone.
3. We stay focussed on recovery.
4. We encourage them to attend any NA meetings that may be conducted in relative prisons throughout their sentence. We also strongly stress the importance of getting a meetings list for the area that they will be released to before they get out. This is so they can have a game plan and know when and where there is a meeting the FIRST day they get out.
5. If there is a desire to send a gift, we strongly suggest NA approved literature only, i.e. Basic Text, It Works: How & Why, Step Working Guides, Just For Today etc. N.B. only paperback copies will be accepted in certain prisons.
6. Only NA approved literature can be used for prison sponsorship.
7. We only use the Prison Sponsorship PO Box for such correspondence and not our home addresses. We disclose no personal information of this sort. Anonymity is kept by using our first name and last initial only. The use of a pseudonym is also permissible.
8. We never write anything we don't want the whole world to read. All mail is monitored by security within the prison system. We should always ask ourselves before we write anything personal: "Would I want everyone to know that I said or did this?"
9. Men write to men and women write to women.
10. In the spirit of our 12th tradition, we respect the anonymity of all sponsees. This would mean that anybody wanting to be a prison sponsor would have to be removed from all clearance lists and could no longer participate in any H&I service where there is direct contact with inmates.

Thank you, for sharing and caring the N.A. way – "In order that no addict, anywhere, need die from addiction".



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Dear Prospective Sponsor,

Thank you for your interest in the Prison Sponsorship program of the North West England and North Wales area of Narcotics Anonymous. We are very excited about carrying the message of recovery and sponsorship through prison correspondence, and your willingness to participate in this process. As you might imagine, we need to take great care to conduct ourselves in a spiritual manner. We endeavour to maintain the principle of anonymity in our service, primarily for the safety of the addict behind bars. In accordance with this we suggest you for-go any H&I service that involves direct contact with inmates, however the final decision rests with the individual. It is also suggested that you have a current sponsor. Do not be perturbed from offering the benefit of your experience to inmates by not answering the questions if you are at present in between sponsors; the solution is simple. Nor should you be off put by the circumstance of never having sponsored another addict, we all possess the potential to help one another through sponsorship.

Once the subcommittee receives a request from an addict in prison it will be forwarded to a sponsor. After the initial letter of request all correspondence thereafter will be anonymous between the sponsor and sponsee. We as a sub-committee feel that in order to vote someone in as a sponsor it would be practical as well as necessary to know a little bit about you. These questions are designed for your interpretation. Please answer them as honestly as you can and return your information to us via a committee member, the ASC, or the designated PO Box - [Narcotics Anonymous Prison Sponsorship, PO Box 225, St Annes, Lancashire, FY8 9BG.](#)

1. Please print you name, address and phone number.
2. What pen name would you like to be known by?
3. How is your recovery based in NA?
4. How do you work the steps?
5. Have you completed a fourth and fifth step?
6. Do you attend NA meetings regularly?
7. Do you have at least two years consecutive clean time?
8. Briefly outline your understanding of the 12 steps and 12 traditions.
9. Do you have the willingness and availability to reply to any letter you receive within one week?
10. Are you able to attend at least 2 sub-committee meetings per year?
11. Have you been a victim or perpetrator to a crime for which someone is currently imprisoned for as a result of the crime in question? If so, have you considered that perhaps prison correspondence could be a problem or conflict for you?
12. Have you considered speaking to your sponsor about becoming involved with this avenue of service?

Thanks for taking the time, and being honest enough to answer all of these questions. We will let you know if a prospective sponsee asks for guidance in working the 12 steps of NA. In the mean time, keep coming back.



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SERVICE POSITIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES.

Chair (2yrs clean time, H&I experience)

- Attend and facilitate sub-committee meetings
- Attend ASC
- Liaise and coordinate with prisons and prison staff
- Database of records – sponsors, sponsees, minutes, treasury reports etc

Vice Chair (1yr clean time)

- Attend sub-committee meetings
- Stand in for chair as and when required
- Willingness to take over as chair at end of commitment

Correspondence Coordinator (2yrs clean time, H&I experience)

- Attend sub-committee meetings
- PO Box duties
- Screen Mail
- Sponsee database
- Liaise with service coordinator regarding mail

Service Coordinator (1yr clean time)

- Attend sub-committee
- Consider / seek out potential sponsors (ultimately sub-committee conscience decides)
- Sponsor database
- Liaise with correspondence coordinator re mail

Secretary (1yr clean time)

- Attend sub-committee meetings
- Write up and mail minutes
- Inventory and purchase literature when required

Treasurer (2yr clean time)

- Attend sub-committee meetings
- Sub-committee financial responsibilities, budgets, receipts etc.

Brews

- Attend sub-committee meetings
- Making brews etc