



Alcoholics Anonymous

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To All Groups,
Intergroups &
Regions

May 2017

Charity Status

Dear Friends

This letter is to remind all AA members that the AA Fellowship is not part of the Charity "The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Britain Ltd.)" The only bodies which are allowed to use the Charity Number are the General Service Board and the General Service Office.

Please see P. 117 of The AA Structure Handbook for Great Britain:

The Charity Commissioners and their lawyers have agreed that the groups, intergroups and regions of Alcoholics Anonymous will be regarded as "affiliated groups" which are autonomous, informal bodies having the right to submit nominations of persons to serve as Trustees of the main Board. Provided that groups, intergroups and regions are not formally established by constitution and do not seek funding from outside agencies they will be ignored by the Charity Commissioners

In the above we have a position which allows us to maintain our Traditions and our Guidelines. In other words we are being allowed to continue, more or less, as before the new legislation. In order for this special treatment to continue, the groups, intergroups and regions must:

1. ensure that they do not have a constitution* which identifies them as an independent body
2. not hold themselves out to be a charity in their own right and must not use the Board's charity registration number for any purpose (this is already the case) and
3. if funds are kept in a bank account, ensure that the account is in the name of Alcoholics Anonymous

* Constitution. Our advisors tell us that the setting up of a document describing how the group, intergroup or region is set up e.g. how committees are elected is acceptable but any such document must not contain objects which are the same as the main charity or set themselves up as stand-alone bodies independent of Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Britain). The advice also suggests that it might be safer to drop the term "constitution" and give the document some other title.

Yours in Fellowship

Roger B (General Secretary)

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