

Hints and Suggestions for Twelfth Steppers

The group is responsible for sponsoring members into Twelfth Step service. It is suggested that Twelfth Steppers should read Chapter Seven of the Big Book 'Working With Others' before undertaking such service. The following suggestions have been prepared to assist groups with that responsibility, and are based on the collective experience of the Fellowship in Britain. For guidance on Twelfth Stepping minors, please see latest guidance from GSO.

1. The suffering alcoholic should be visited at home preferably, after an initial contact, unless he/she specifically asks not to be visited. They need to see you and hear your experiences. It is not enough to meet at a meeting.
2. Take another member with you, as you do not know what you may find. Introducing newer members of the Fellowship helps them to gain experience.
3. Ideally men should Twelfth Step men and women should Twelfth Step women, or as a reasonable alternative, a man and a woman might go together.
4. If you are unable to deal with a request quickly, telephone the caller and explain the delay. Remember *your* first call, and the need for immediate help.
5. If the suffering alcoholic is not on the telephone, and there has been no pre-arranged time for a visit, take a note in an envelope, confirming that you called, and asking them to contact you.
6. Make sure that the new member at their first meeting is introduced to other people, and is offered telephone numbers, the local *Where To Find*, a Twelfth Step pack etc.
7. Newcomers should be taken to several different meetings, so they can meet as many local members as possible.
8. Experience shows that some people do not want to be visited, or go to a meeting. In such situations, contact may be maintained for a short period. If there is no response, we need to detach and let go.
9. Do not advise on medication. It has absolutely nothing to do with us.
10. Twelfth Steppers should be prepared to support the newcomers until they feel at home in meetings. Contact on a regular basis, and an explanation of AA sponsorship would be helpful.
11. There is no such thing as a wasted Twelfth Step call; you have carried the message and have reinforced your own sobriety.
12. REMEMBER - 'Continue to speak of alcoholism as an illness, a fatal malady'.
(*Alcoholics Anonymous*, p. 92)