

Review the Terms of Service for Prisons' roles for Chapter Eight, *Structure Handbook*, pp. 57-58 (Conference 2021 – C5, Q1).

Background

Terms of Service for Prisons' roles for Chapter Eight.

Proposed *Service Handbook* Changes / Chapter 8

8:1 Prison Groups

Prison Group Chairs are appointed according to the intergroup conscience. **These Chairs facilitate prison meetings and visit the prison on a regular basis.** It is recommended that **Chairs** have a minimum of three years' continuous sobriety. Security clearance is invariably necessary. Wherever possible, a team of AA **Prison Group Chairs** should be maintained so that inmates will gain a broader view of how AA works.

So far as the Fellowship is concerned, female members may be included in the panel of agreed **Chairs** for male prisons, provided they are accompanied by a male AA member or male AA members on the panel for female prisons, and provided they are accompanied by a female AA member, subject to the approval of the Governor.

As with all meetings, it is desirable that prison groups discuss the whole of the AA programme of recovery using every opportunity to introduce the Steps and Traditions and referring to the Big Book. In this way, it is possible **for inmate members to learn that they** can live the AA way of life prior to release.

Prison group members should, wherever possible, be encouraged to take an active part in their group in accordance with AA **Traditions. Whenever** possible, **Prison Group Chairs** should adopt only a supporting role.

AA members may be invited to speak at a prison group meeting at the discretion of the Chair. It is recommended that any such speakers have a minimum of one year's continuous sobriety. They need to be aware that they may also require security clearance.

8:2 Prison Liaison Officers (PLOs)

Prison Liaison Officers organise schedules for prison visits as well as facilitating communication with the relevant prison. Communication is reported back to the intergroup and region.

8:3 Communication

- **Prison Group Chairs share reports with their intergroup Prison Liaison Officer (IPLO) on a regular basis, outlining what is occurring within the prison(s) for which they are serving as Chairs.**
- Prior to release prisoners **are** encouraged to make contact with the Fellowship within their local area through the relevant Service Office. **AA** Members who wish to correspond with prisoners should **do so only** through the **prison** correspondence programme operated **through** the General Service Office

- Where no AA group exists at a prison, the local intergroup **is encouraged to make** every attempt to form one. Permission to establish a new prison group **must** be obtained from the **Governor. The** initial approach should be made by the Intergroup Prison Liaison Officer.
- **Experience shows that** participation of prison group sponsors in meetings at national conventions and in regional Prison Sponsor meetings **can be** useful in **raising awareness of prisons service within the Fellowship and expanding member service experience in it.**