

# *Alcoholics Anonymous*

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## *Guidelines for Prisons Postal Service*

Welcome to one of the most rewarding and rarely mentioned forms of Twelfth Step work. In addition to observing the rules in prisons regarding mail and correspondence, the following are suggested guidelines drawn from shared experience to help you when writing to AA members on the 'inside'.

1. We introduce ourselves by qualifying briefly in our opening letter.
2. We try to let the inmate know that writing, like all forms of sharing, helps us as much as it helps her or him.
3. We let the inmate know that he or she is not alone.
4. Correspondents should use their prison postal number for receiving mail rather than their home address. (The co-ordinator gives prison postal sponsors a number.)
5. We share sobriety and sobriety only.
6. We have found it best for all concerned if no emotional or romantic involvement develops.
7. If there is a desire to send a gift for a special occasion, we make it an AA book, AA literature, or *Roundabout/Share* magazine material. (Before sending literature, see if the prison will allow it. Many prisons will permit inmates to receive only literature sent directly from the publishers.)
8. In the spirit of the Twelfth Tradition, we respect the anonymity of our correspondents.
9. We encourage 'inside' AA group activity and stress that first meeting THE DAY the inmate leaves confinement.
10. We encourage 'inside' correspondents to notify GSO prior to their release so that GSO can set up a pre-release contact from their home community.  
Thank you for your willingness to share in this most important work.