

# Workshop on the Difference between Principles and Procedures

**Supplies needed: Chart pads/markers**

## **INTRODUCTION**

Al-Anon has many procedures that are followed from the group level all the way through the WSC. Many of these procedures help to keep Al-Anon strong and growing.

Most of our members follow these procedures and understand why we need to follow them, but what Al-Anon principles govern these procedures? The Al-Anon principles are contained in: The Twelve Steps, The Twelve Traditions, and The Twelve Concepts of Service.

## **ACTIVITY:**

1. Have participants break into four or five groups (depending on number of participants).
2. Provide each group with chart paper and markers.
3. Give each group a "procedure" from the *Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual* or Guidelines, or a procedure that is followed at the group, district, or Area level.
4. Set a time limit for each group to come up with the "principles" (Step, Tradition, Concept) that was taken into consideration when the procedure was formed.
5. Bring groups back together to discuss their findings.

## **Some Procedures that could be discussed:**

Membership eligibility

Who can start a group?

Multiple group membership and office-holding

Recording/Filming

Alateen personal Sponsor should not be an Al-Anon member

Naming a group

Contributions

- By individuals
- By groups
- Al-Anon Service Arms
- Al-Anon/Alateen Conventions
- A.A. Conferences/Conventions
- Outside contributions

This workshop could also be done with procedures followed in a group, district, or Area.

**EXAMPLES:**

<b>PROCEDURES</b>	<b>PRINCIPLES</b>
List a few procedures to give the participants an idea of what we are looking for such as:	Ask: What principles were considered when writing these procedures?
Election of Area Delegate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rotation of service</li> <li>• Concept Three: The right of decision makes effective leadership possible.</li> <li>• Concept Four: Participation is the key to harmony.</li> <li>• Concept Nine: Good personal leadership at all service levels is a necessity. In the field of world service the Board of Trustees assumes the primary leadership.</li> <li>• Warranty Three: that all decisions be reached by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by unanimity;</li> </ul>
Agenda for a business meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tradition Four: Each group should be autonomous, except in matters affecting other another group or Al-Anon or AA as a whole.</li> <li>• Tradition Nine: Our groups, as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.</li> </ul>
Quarterly Appeal Letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tradition Seven: Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.</li> <li>• Warranty One: that only sufficient operating funds, including an ample reserve, be its prudent financial principle;</li> </ul>
From <i>Members Interested in Speaking (G-1)</i> – Plan What to Say	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Step Twelve: Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to others, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.</li> <li>• Tradition Eight: Al-Anon Twelfth Step should remain forever non-professional, but our service centers may employ special workers.</li> <li>• Tradition Eleven: Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, films, and TV. We need guard with special care the anonymity of all AA members.</li> </ul>

**RESOURCES:** *2014-2017 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27); Members Interested in Speaking (G-1); District Meetings (G-15)*