

How Can I Help the Alcoholic in Jail or Prison?

“Practical experience shows that nothing will so much insure immunity from drinking as intensive work with other alcoholics. It works when other activities fail. ... You can help when no one else can”.

Alcoholics Anonymous, page 181

1. **Bring AA Meetings into Local Jails and Prisons:**

Albemarle Charlottesville Regional Jail: AA members are needed. Men's AA is on Mondays from 7:00-8:00 pm; women's AA meetings are every Tuesday and second and fourth Thursdays from 7:00-8:00 pm. Meetings at the Juvenile facility are on Saturdays from 2:00-3:00 pm. New volunteers must first apply and then attend an orientation at the jail.

To volunteer at the adult facility, download an application from the Albemarle County Regional Jail by googling “Albemarle County Regional Jail,” or you can copy and paste this address <http://www.albemarle.org/departments.asp?department=jail> into your browser. Click on “Volunteer Applications” on the left hand side. Print the application, fill it out, and mail it to the address listed at the top of the application. It no longer needs to be notarized.

Fluvanna Correctional Center for Women: AA meetings are every Monday from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Both men and women can take meetings into this facility. There is an orientation, and sometimes a long wait before approval. Patience required! Call 434-984-3700, and ask for Ms. Baskerfield in Programs to ask when the next orientation session will be held. Applications are completed at the orientation.

Dillwyn Correctional Institution: AA meetings are on two Wednesdays each month from 5:30-7:00 pm. Contact Renee Trent by email, Renee.Trent@vadoc.virginia.gov or by phone, 434 505-3149 about attending an orientation.

2. **Be a Twelfth Step “Bridging the Gap” Volunteer:**

Inmates about to be released from Dillwyn can write to request to be assigned to an AA volunteer, who agrees to write the inmate before he leaves prison, and to take him to a few AA meetings in the first few days after his release. Experience has shown that inmates who attend an AA meeting on the first day after incarceration have a much better chance of recovery.

3. **Correspond with an Inmate:**

Fluvanna Women's prison, Dillwyn, and the local Albemarle Charlottesville Regional Jail all allow AA members to write to inmates, but only if the AA member does not use his personal address or give his phone number. Letters from inmates are received at a post office box which is checked regularly. No facility orientation required.

4. **Sponsor an Inmate:**

After attending an orientation, you will be allowed to spend an hour per week with one inmate in a meeting room inside the jail or prison.

Please note: All applications to volunteer at a jail or prison include a criminal history and motor vehicle records check. If you do not agree to this, your application will not be considered.

If you are interested in any of these service opportunities or have questions, contact the Jefferson District Corrections Chairperson at jds9corrections@gmail.com or call her at 571-228-3512 (Kay).