

Dear A.A. member,

The A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Program connects the A.A. member being released from prison with Alcoholics Anonymous in their community. When the soon-to-be-released A.A. inmate writes us, we match that person to a Prerelease Contact in their community into which they are released. If you are interested in this form of service, we will call you, obtain your approval, and then send you the name of an inmate.

Many A.A.s involved in this service stress the importance of getting the former inmate to a meeting as soon as possible, usually within the first 48 hours after release. During this time, you help them get acquainted, get phone numbers, perhaps locate a sponsor or home group, and become connected to the local A.A. community.

Your main function is to introduce the newly released inmate to others in A.A. so he or she can build a broad, healthy base in A. A in the local community. An A.A. member who is part of a correctional facilities volunteer program needs to be familiar with, and adhere to rules that correctional facilities have regarding a volunteer's contact with inmates, both while they are in the facility and after they are released. If you are willing to be the hand of A.A. when an inmate reaches out for help, please complete the attached A.A. Corrections Contact Form and email to jefferson.btg@gmail.com or mail to P.O Box 4756 Charlottesville VA 22905.

Name: _____

Sex: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Daytime Phone: _____

Nighttime Phone: _____

Home Group: _____

Length of Sobriety: _____

A.A. Corrections Prerelease Contact Procedures

1. Institutionalized A.A. members are eligible for this program if they have less than six months to serve on their sentence.
2. The inmate fills out the form and mails it to the District's Corrections Committee, which is responsible for processing and coordinating all Prerelease Contacts.
3. The outside A.A. member writes to the institutionalized member within two weeks. If the Prerelease Contact fails to write back to the institutionalized A.A. member, he or she should inform the Corrections Committee. (Prerelease Contacts may, if they wish, use as their return address that of a local A.A. office.)
4. The institutionalized A.A. member and the outside contact set up a meeting at the time of the inmate's release. Information such as date of release, arrival time in the local area, and an address and phone number should be provided to the Prerelease Contact.
5. The Prerelease Contact will meet the newly released A.A. at an agreed upon time and place and begin the process to help them adjust to attending their first meetings in the local community.
6. The Prerelease Contact and the newly released A.A. will, by working together, know when they both feel the time has come for the Prerelease Contact to move on to helping someone new, now that the member is staying sober and connected to the local A.A. community.

Suggestions for the Prerelease Contact

1. Contact the inside A.A. member by letter within two weeks of being matched and remain in touch with them as their release date approaches.
2. Try to take the former inmate to an A.A. meeting within 24 to 48 hours of his or her release.
3. *It is suggested that the first meeting be viewed as a regular Twelfth Step call and that you take another A.A. member with you.*
4. Share your experience, strength and hope with the newly released A.A., just as you would with any other person new to A.A. in your community.
5. Review the A.A. Correction Prerelease Contact Information with the former inmate so that there are no misunderstandings.
6. Your job is finished after a sponsor has been found, or when you and the inmate feel that he or she is secure enough for you to move on.
7. Make sure the newly released A.A. receives meeting schedules, phone numbers, and A.A. literature.
8. Encourage the newly released A.A. to attend meetings as often as possible, to find a home group and, most important, to get a sponsor as soon as possible. Let them know that even a temporary sponsor would be acceptable.