

Vermont Area 56 Alateen Behavior Guidelines

Purpose:

For Area 56 to meet or exceed the minimum guidelines, of AFG Headquarters Inc., regarding the safety and behavior of **teens and adults** before, during and immediately after all Al-Anon/Alateen functions. This includes meetings, workshops, conventions or other social events. These guidelines are inclusive and need to be adhered to wherever Area 56 supports our Area 56 Alateens, including in other areas.

Goals:

To encourage healthy communication, respectfulness of oneself and others including property, appropriate behavior, safety at all times, good healthy boundaries, trustworthiness, self-esteem, good habits and the desire to have serenity and peace in living one day at a time.

Guide for Success:

Focus on Al-Anon principles and use conference approved literature (CAL).

Guiding principles:

- **Personal progress for the greatest number depends on unity.**
- Helping the families of alcoholics by practicing the Twelve Steps of AA ourselves.
- Participation is the key to harmony.
- Good personal leadership at all levels.
- Anonymity is our spiritual foundation, ever reminding us to place principles above personalities.

Suggested Guidelines:

Alateens and Alateen sponsors will be responsible for performance and implementation of the following guidelines before, during and immediately after Area 56 events that have Alateen participation including in other areas (states).

- Early arrival to setup for meeting or event.
- Behavior, language, attire and safety in keeping with Al-Anon 12 Steps,
- 12 Traditions and 12 Concepts.

1. Act responsibly:

No fighting, pushing, shoving, bullying, horseplay, making fun of, threatening or sexually explicit actions. Other examples of inappropriate behavior include touching of another person without consent or touching private areas with or without consent. Public displays of affection including kissing, petting, cuddling, caressing, making out or any other action that indicates or lends itself to any sexual innuendo of any sort whether overtly or covertly are not acceptable behavior. Unwanted hugs are also inappropriate. This includes all Alateen/Alateen and Alateen/ Alateen Sponsor interaction. Overt or covert sexual interaction between any adult and Alateen member is prohibited. Other examples of inappropriate behavior include drinking, underage smoking, sexual harassment, stealing or using drugs. Act responsibly by cleaning up meeting place after the meeting.

2. **Speak conscientiously:**

- Swearing, hollering, bullying, threatening, interrupting, making jokes about someone in the group, harassing, challenging, being sexually explicit or having side conversations when someone else is speaking are not acceptable ways of communication.
- Speaking politely, courteously and positively are to be encouraged and acknowledged.

3. **Safety:**

Safety is a wide and ever increasing concern. There are many levels that need to be addressed for the Alateen and Alateen Sponsor. There are three main categories:

- **Law Safety**
- **Physical/Medical Safety**
- **Vehicular Safety**

A. **Law Safety:** This requires the abidance of all state and federal laws pursuant to the general public's acceptable practices of living. Once again this applies to all Al-Anon events whether in state or out of state that Alateens will be involved in. A good example would be not to "steal" from group or participating members. Ignorance is not an excuse.

B. **Physical/Medical Safety:** This involves medical care in grave circumstance when parent/guardian is not physically present and an emergency needs to be addressed.

- **In-state or out of state events not including regular Alateen meeting.** Without signed consent form Alateen may not attend function.
 1. A **special signed** medical release form will need to be in place when an Alateen is placed in the "care/custody" of a non-related sponsor in order to attend Al-Anon-sponsored Alateen

events. This includes going to in-state as well as out of state events. This is designed for one-time events in a calendar year.

2. If in the event that emergency medical attention is required, sponsor must contact parent/guardian as soon as possible.

- **Regular Alateen Meeting.**

1. If in the event that emergency medical attention is required, sponsor must contact parent/guardian as soon as possible.

C. Vehicular Safety: Without written consent Alateen may not participate in event. This requires the abidance of all state and federal laws with respect to the safety of all whether driving or riding in a vehicle. This includes events both instate as well as out side of Area 56. Ignorance is not an excuse.

1. Use seat belts when driving or riding (no exceptions) to and from Al-Anon-sponsored Alateen events.
2. All Alateens that ride with either Alateen Sponsors or >18 year old Alateens must have written consent unless it is a legal guardian/ parent or an older sibling that is providing ride. This is all-inclusive for Al-Anon sponsored events both in state and out of state. This permission should be reauthorized every 6 months. If event is a one-time event then consent is only good for that event.

4. **There must be at least one Alateen Sponsor at every Alateen meeting.** The Sponsor responsibility section states that a Sponsor should find a replacement however the Alateens also are responsible to know that they cannot have a meeting without at least one Sponsor.