



Temporary Contact Volunteer Guidelines

Definition: The *Bridging the Gap* initiative is by definition 12th Step work.

Objective: Help those leaving Correctional and Treatment facilities remain sober and drug-free. Further, to give such people a chance to discover a more serene, more fruitful life going forward.

Concern: Those leaving Correctional and Treatment facilities are extremely vulnerable to relapsing in the immediate timeframe (24-48 hours) following their release.

Process: Set up a process where AA Temporary Contact Volunteers pre-arrange contact steps with the person to be released (PTBR), so that immediately upon release the PTBR can be assisted to attend an initial, introductory set of AA meetings.

Guidelines:

- Contact Person to Be Released (PTBR) about two weeks prior to date of release, or best possible interval.
- Consider the safety issues involved. Determine if you need another AA to make first contact with you.
- Arrange contact as best feasible. Make all effort possible to get new person to first meeting within the 24-48 hour window following their release.



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- Explain that your contact is a temporary commitment, usually limited to 4-6 meetings.
- Help the new person feel comfortable in these first meetings. Make some introductions. Be sensitive to gender-related issues.
- Acquaint them with the importance of finding a Temporary Sponsor.
- Acquaint them with the importance of a home group. Review the various categories of meeting formats, the need to attend daily, and the value of going to a variety of meetings.
- Make sure they have meeting schedule information, phone numbers, access to literature and a Big Book.