

Michigan AFG Required Guidelines For Alateen

Alateens are members of the Al-Anon fellowship who have been affected by alcoholism of a loved one. They have come to Alateen seeking recovery. Before recovery can take place, an environment of trust and safety must exist. It is the responsibility of Al-Anon and Alateen as a whole to work together to maintain a healthy, loving, and supportive environment.

1. The primary goal of the Alateen sponsor is to help Alateen members follow the Al-Anon program. Should anything interfere with this objective, i.e., accusations, controversy, threats of personal harm, etc., the Alateen sponsor will discontinue serving in this position. Even if the sponsor feels totally blameless, they must understand that their removal from the situation will protect the Alateen members and preserve the unity of the fellowship as well. Stepping away from sponsoring an Alateen group is not an admission of guilt.
2. Alateen is designed for members in their teens. There are younger children who can benefit from the Alateen program, which requires the ability to participate in a shared learning experience. It is within the autonomy of each Alateen group to lower the age limit or divide into groups according to age. Whatever the decision, all such groups will be registered as “Alateen” at Michigan Al-Anon Family Groups and the World Service Office. Members beyond the teen years are to attend Al-Anon meetings.
3. Sponsors must be at least 21 years of age, currently attending Al-Anon meetings, and an active Al-Anon member for at least two years in addition to any time spent in the Alateen program. Al-Anon members involved in Alateen service must never have been convicted of a felony, charged with and /or convicted of child abuse or any other inappropriate sexual behavior, and not have demonstrated emotional problems which could result in harm to Alateen members. Overt or covert sexual interaction between any sponsor/co-sponsor/adult Al-Anon and an Alateen is strictly prohibited.
4. All Al-Anon members involved in Alateen service must be willing to submit to a yearly background check for certification. Alateen service members are prohibited from conduct contrary to applicable laws before, during and after any Alateen meeting or activity. Every sponsor and group must submit the Alateen Group Sponsor Questionnaire yearly in January for recertification thru the Area Alateen process person.
5. It is highly recommended that there be two Alateen sponsors per meeting – at least one (1) sponsor is required. Al-Anon members who are also members of AA may serve as co-sponsors by virtue of their Al-Anon membership, but emphasis be placed on the Al-Anon interpretation of the program at all times through working the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, Twelve Concepts and Warranties. If a certified Alateen Sponsor is not present, the Alateens shall join the Al-Anon meeting in progress.
6. Sponsors are responsible for the Alateens in the meeting room. They have the right to ask a member who is displaying inappropriate behavior to leave the meeting. Alateens are responsible for their own behavior and must handle themselves in a manner that is conducive to and in the spirit of the Al-Anon/Alateen program, Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, Twelve Concepts, and Warranties. To the best of their ability, Alateen sponsors must maintain a sense of safety and trust in order for recovery to take place and to protect the Alateen members from physical and emotional harm.

7. Sponsors may become aware of instances of child abuse. In Michigan, an Alateen sponsor is not legally required to report instances of suspected child abuse. Yet, as a sponsor, we may feel compelled by moral responsibility to report to the authorities cases of suspected child abuse. For the Alateen to report the abuse their self is the best course of action. If this is not possible, sponsors first must discuss their intentions with the Alateen member prior to disclosure to avoid placing the member in danger and to maintain confidence and trust in the sponsor and the Alateen program. It is then important for the sponsors to review the Traditions and keep in mind the Alateen member's anonymity. It is also important to keep the identity of the alleged abuser anonymous, since accusations are defamatory and could lead to claims of libel and slander. To keep the Alateen fellowship from public controversy, any reporting is done on a personal basis rather than as an Alateen sponsor.

8. All state sponsored events requiring Alateens to be transported and/or attending events, and not escorted by parent or guardian, must have Area permission forms filled out, signed, and notarized.

9. Al-Anon members involved in Alateen service, all Alateen members, and each Alateen Group as a whole, must adhere/comply to Michigan AFG Required Guidelines For Alateen, or they will be required to discontinue in Alateen service, and be required not to attend Alateen Meetings. If an Alateen Group as a whole does not adhere/comply to these requirements, they will be removed from The World Service Office and Michigan Al-Anon Family Group Inc. registration, thus not able to operate or function as or use the name Al-Anon or Alateen.

10. Michigan Al-Anon/Alateen members attending K.O.M.I.A.C. Inc., (Kentucky, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Alateen Convention) although a separate function with bylaws, articles, board of directors, rules, behavioral requirements, and parental permission and medical care procedures, must also adhere/comply with these requirements.

**(Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service: An Al-Anon member who is in direct contact in any way, shape, or form with an Alateen Member. i.e. – chaperones, transporting, etc.)

Approved - Spring Assembly
June 19, 2004
Revised 11/2004 6/2005