

AA's Twelve Traditions
Tradition 4
Short and Long Form

Short Form

Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole.

Long Form

With respect to its own affairs, each A.A. group should be responsible to no other authority than its own conscience. But when its plans concern the welfare of neighboring groups also, those groups ought to be consulted. And no group, regional committee, or individual should ever take any action that might greatly affect A.A. as a whole without conferring with the trustees of the General Service Board. On such issues our common welfare is paramount.

1. What did I hear?

2. What does it mean?

3. What are the implications for my life?

AA's Twelve Traditions
Tradition 5
Short and Long Form

Short Form

Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

Long Form

Each Alcoholics Anonymous group ought to be a spiritual entity having but one primary purpose—that of carrying its message to the alcoholic who still suffers.

1. What did I hear?

2. What does it mean?

3. What are the implications for my life?

AA's Twelve Traditions
Tradition 6
Short and Long Form

Short Form

An A.A. group ought never endorse, finance or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.

Long Form

Problems of money, property, and authority may easily divert us from our primary spiritual aim. We think, therefore, that any considerable property of genuine use to A.A. should be separately incorporated and managed, thus dividing the material from the spiritual. An A.A. group, as such, should never go into business. Secondary aids to A.A., such as clubs or hospitals, which require much property or administration, ought to be incorporated and so set apart that, if necessary, they can be freely discarded by the groups. Hence such facilities ought not to use the A.A. name. Their management should be the sole responsibility of those people who financially support them. For clubs, A.A. managers are usually preferred. But hospitals, as well as other places of recuperation, ought to be well outside A.A.—and medically supervised. While an A.A. group may cooperate with anyone, such cooperation ought never to go so far as affiliation or endorsement, actual or implied. An A.A. group can bind itself to no one.

1. What did I hear?

2. What does it mean?

3. What are the implications for my life?

AA's Twelve Traditions
Tradition 7
Short and Long Form

Short Form

Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.

Long Form

The A.A. groups themselves ought to be fully supported by the voluntary contributions of their own members. We think that each group should soon achieve this ideal; that any public solicitation of funds using the name of Alcoholics Anonymous is highly dangerous, whether by groups, clubs, hospitals, or other outside agencies; that acceptance of large gifts from any source, or of contributions carrying any obligation whatever, is unwise. Then, too, we view with much concern those A.A. treasuries, which continue beyond prudent reserves, to accumulate funds for no stated A.A. purpose. Experience has often warned us that nothing can so surely destroy our spiritual heritage as futile disputes over property, money, and authority.

1. What did I hear?

2. What does it mean?

3. What are the implications for my life?

AA's Twelve Traditions
Tradition 8
Short and Long Form

Short Form

Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers

Long Form

Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional. We define professionalism as the occupation of counseling alcoholics for fees or hire. But we may employ alcoholics where they are going to perform those services for which we might otherwise have to engage non-alcoholics. Such special services may be well recompensed. But our usual A.A. Twelfth Step work is never to be paid for.

1. What did I hear?

2. What does it mean?

3. What are the implications for my life?

