

Media Guide

Alcoholics Anonymous Ireland

An introduction to AA for use by press, TV, internet and other media platforms

Alcoholics Anonymous, AA, has but one single purpose, one unique mission statement – to be available to help anyone, anywhere, when they are troubled by or suffering from the effects of their drinking. That's it, AA has no other purpose or agenda. It does not seek to recruit members. In fact, AA does not even keep any membership records. AA does not charge for membership, it is free of charge to those who seek help. AA does not solicit, or accept, funding from any outside source or organisation. It has no flag days, no funding drives, no church gate collections, no government or HSE support.

AA will not accept any outside funding and is entirely self-supporting through the voluntary contributions of its members. Bequests from grateful families of members are politely refused. Members themselves are strictly limited in the

AA is anonymous,
not invisible.

amount they can give to AA. We believe that this policy permits us to pursue our singleness of purpose without the interference or influence of any outside agency. It has been working in Ireland and worldwide for over 70 years. Table-top



contributions, as they are referred to, have permitted AA to maintain a permanent General Service Office in Dublin, and a Central Service Office in Belfast. These offices are staffed by highly trained professional staff and are open during normal office hours. AA also maintains numerous after-hours helplines, available evenings and weekends. The General Service Office staff is available to handle any enquiries that may arise. AA's excellent intuitive and user friendly-website, www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie, is replete with useful information, whether one is merely curious, looking for information on one of the 2,000-plus weekly meetings in Ireland, or seeking help with their drinking. This website is recommended as the first point of contact for anyone seeking information on AA and, in addition to helping the troubled drinker, contains all relevant company information, including annual reports, accounts and company status. AA is an open and clearly visible organisation, adhering to the highest

standards of mandatory reporting and account-keeping.

Why, then, if AA is so open and transparent, does it remain “anonymous?” The anonymity referred to throughout AA is the personal anonymity of its members. This tradition of anonymity at public level offers members the reassurance that their personal information will never become public or be discussed outside of AA. This guarantee of personal confidentiality is vital to members’ peace of mind and predates recent General Data Protection Regulations by about 70 years!! AA is, of course, fully GDPR compliant. AA has in the past been accused of secrecy, of being a secret society, even a cult. Nothing could be further from the truth. Although originally founded on Christian principles, AA does not require any religious affiliation whatsoever and welcomes people of all, or indeed no, religious tradition. Operating on spiritual principles, AA promotes acceptance of others regardless of race, creed or gender.

The only requirement for AA membership is a desire to stop drinking.

AA does not seek publicity for itself but does want the public, especially those troubled by their drinking, to be aware that help is available. Those working in the media can greatly help in this regard simply by making the public aware of our existence.

When we say that our primary reason for existing is to help those who wish to stop

drinking, we actually mean just that. AA does not even have an official opinion on alcohol or alcoholism. We are concerned only with the person who seeks help for their drinking.



AA members are always willing to share their experience with the media, while remaining anonymous. Anyone who wants further information about AA and its programme for living a sober and contented life should call our General Service Office on 01 8420700, where our staff will be only too happy to answer any queries or put you in touch with someone who can be of assistance. AA is an open and transparent fellowship where the confidentiality of its members is protected. Nothing about the AA programme is hidden or secret. Should anyone wish to see for themselves how it works, there are many Open Public Meetings held around the country, which members of the public are welcome, and indeed encouraged, to attend.



General Service Office of Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel: 01-8420700
Email: gso@alcoholicsanonymous.ie
Website: www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie