

BRIDGING THE GAP



VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES

Alcoholics Anonymous Western Cape Central Office:

Unit 502, 5th Floor, Boland Bank Building
18 Lower Burg Street, Cape Town, 8001

E-Mail: westerncape@aasouthafrica.org.za



Volunteer Guidelines

Part of Bridging the Gap between a treatment program and A.A. is The Temporary Contact Program, which is designed to help the alcoholic in an alcoholism treatment program make the transition into AA. One of the most 'slipper' places in the journey of sobriety is between the door of the treatment facility and the nearest A.A. group or meeting.

As a BTG volunteer, you can introduce the program of Alcoholics Anonymous to newcomers. When you sign up as a temporary contact, your name is placed on the Bridge the Gap volunteer list (database), along with the information you provide. When someone in treatment requests a BTG contact, a BTG committee member matches that person's name with a temporary contact volunteer.

If you agree to become a temporary contact, please take some time to become familiar with the BTG guidelines below.

The following pamphlets may be helpful to you:

- Bridging the Gap – GSO Pamphlet P-49
- AA at a Glance – F-1
- Information on AA – F-2
- Primary Purpose Card – F-17

Our primary purpose is to stay sober and to help other alcoholics achieve sobriety. We are not affiliated with any treatment programs, and have no opinion on outside issues.

Volunteer's Commitment:

As a volunteer member of the Bridge the Gap program, your commitment consists of introducing your new contact to the program of Alcoholics Anonymous in his or her community. Treatment facility patients who have signed-up to have a temporary contact will be expecting you to:

- Make arrangements with your contact before they leave treatment. If this is not possible, contact them within 24 hours of their release.



Volunteer's Commitment: (contd.)

- Familiarize the contact with AA meeting formats and explain what the newcomer can expect at his/her first meeting.
- Attend 3-6 meetings with your contact and introduce the newcomer to other sober members of AA.
- Explain 'sponsorship' and possibly provide the pamphlet, 'Questions and Answers on Sponsorship'.
- Explain the value of having a home group to your contact.
- Help the newcomer become familiar with AA literature.
- Explain that the book Alcoholics Anonymous is our basic text.

Please Do Not:

- Provide any form of financial support.
- Become a source of transportation.
- Provide any sort of social or counselling service.
- Debate or offer opinions outside the scope of your experience with the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- Provide medical or psychiatric services.
- Offer religious services.
- Sponsor the newcomer.

Helpful Information is available from:

Alcoholics Anonymous Western Cape Central Office:

Telephone No: +27 21 418 0908

Fax No: +27 21 418 0908


Email Address: westerncape@aasouthafrica.org.za

Physical / Postal Address Unit 502, 5th Floor, Boland Bank Building, 18 Lower Burg Street, Cape Town, 8001

If you are interested in volunteering as a Bridge the Gap Temporary Contact, please complete the information in the registration form below, detach it from the leaflet and select from *one* of the following options:

1. Hand the completed form to your Group Service Representative [G.S.R.], to hand in at the monthly Areas meeting
2. Drop the completed form off at the Western Cape Central Service Office (the address is on the front page of this leaflet)
3. Copy and paste the completed form into an e-mail and send it to: westerncape@asouthafrica.org.za
4. Fax the form to: +27 21 418 0908
5. Right click (or ctrl+click) on the following link to open it: [BTG Database Form](#)
You will then have accessed the internet-based form for completion (once completed, your details will register directly into the BTG Database).

Note: Please keep the rest of the leaflet (pages 1-3) for your reference.

	<h2>VOLUNTEER'S BTG REGISTRATION FORM</h2>
First Name _____ Last Name (Optional) _____	
Sex: _____ Age: _____ Sobriety Date: _____	
Area of Residence: _____ Home Group: _____	
Home Phone _____ Cell Phone: _____	
Work Phone (Optional) _____	