

Service provided by the Mid Southern California Area 9 Treatment Committee



Bridging the Gap VOLUNTEER FORM

*Or use the QR code above
to fill out the form online*

**Bridging the Gap
between the exit door of
a treatment or correctional
facility to the entrance door
of A. A. in your community.**

MSC Area 9
Treatment Facilities Committee
P.O. Box 51446
Irvine, CA 92619-1446
Voicemail: 949-346-4697

What is Bridging the Gap and What Does it Do?

The Bridging the Gap Committee is made up of AA members who are volunteering to help patients, clients and inmates optimize their transition directly and immediately upon release from the hospital, treatment or correctional facility to an AA meeting within the community where they will reside.

How Does AA Bridging the Gap Work?

Those having past problems with alcohol and a desire not to return to drinking upon release from treatment, hospitals or correctional facilities contact the local Bridging the Gap Committee.

A member of the Bridging the Gap Committee regularly retrieves the requests.

A member of the Bridging the Gap Committee consults a confidential list of volunteers for an AA member available to take the Bridging the Gap contact request and transmits the request to that volunteer.

At no time is personal contact information given directly to the newcomer.

The AA volunteer contacts the newcomer to make arrangements to meet. With another AA member, the volunteer accompanies the newcomer to their first meeting and introduces them to the group, shares literature, phone lists, and gets them acquainted with AA in their community.

Guidelines for AA Bridging the Gap Volunteers

- Bridging the Gap volunteers should always work in pairs. At least one of the pair should have a year's sobriety, have a sponsor, and be working the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- Newcomers are matched with Volunteers by Age, Gender, and Location. Persons who identify as non-binary or gender non-conforming can indicate their preference to be matched.
- Volunteers meet the newcomer at an AA meeting place, a public location, or the newcomer's residence upon discharge or release.
- The Bridging the Gap volunteer:
 - Encourages the newcomer to obtain a phone list.
 - Explains sponsorship and introduce the newcomer to prospective sponsors and other Group members.
 - Explains the importance of a home group and introduces the newcomer to the meeting secretary.
 - Provides the newcomer with a meeting schedule and explains the different types of meetings.
 - Accompanies the newcomer to not more than three meetings and encourages him or her to begin participating.
 - Explains meeting "etiquette:" The importance of arriving on time, when to turn in or pick up any attendance slips, avoiding cross-talk, etc.
 - Shows the newcomer the Group's AA literature rack.
- It is suggested that the Bridging the Gap contact NOT become the sponsor.

What AA Bridging the Gap

DOES NOT do:

- Provide contacts for other recovery programs. Bridging the Gap has but one primary purpose: to carry the message to the alcoholic who still suffers.
- Provide monetary assistance to the newcomer.
- Provide meals, housing, or transportation services.
- Serve as case workers or payees for government benefits.
- Report to probation, Child Protective Services, or any other mandating agency.
- Make medical diagnoses.
- Offer opinions on the newcomer's treatment program, aftercare, or probation requirements.
- Offer professional counseling.
- Affiliate with councils or social agencies.
- Keep attendance records or case histories.
- Ensure the newcomer meets any mandates from the Courts or aftercare program.
- For additional information, see Area 09 BTG Volunteer Guidelines, and attend BTG workshops.

When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA to always be there. And for that, I am responsible.



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This information is strictly confidential and will remain inside MSCA Area 9 TFC and will not be shared.

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Email: _____

Gender: M F Other _____ Age: _____

Phone: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Sobriety Date: ____/____/____

Date: _____

Please cut this part and submit it to your Group GSR or District Treatment Facilities contact person, mail to:
 MSCA Area 9 -P.O. Box 51446 Irvine CA 92619-1446, or email to treatment@area9btg.org

Thank you for serving Alcoholics Anonymous.