

Maine Area (#23)

Responsibilities of Groups & Al-Anon Members to Alateen

Understandably, some Al-Anon members are not interested in becoming Alateen sponsors or becoming involved in Alateen. But--- there **ARE** certain responsibilities to Alateen that **EVERY** Al-Anon member and **EVERY** group should be aware of and take very seriously, if we are to ensure the safety of our Alateens and Alateen sponsors to the best of our ability.

1. Part of the application process for new Alateen sponsor applicants is to obtain a **“vote of confidence”** from their home group. This is a positive vote by the majority of voting members while the applicant is out of the room.
 - Those voting who do not know the applicant should abstain from the vote
 - If a voter has reservations about the applicant, they should follow their heart and vote, “No.” Do not feel pressured to vote in favor of the applicant if you feel they are not appropriate to work with teens, to avoid hurt feelings. Our top priority is the safety of Alateens and Alateen sponsors.
2. If you are asked to write a **letter of reference** for an Alateen sponsor applicant, do this only if you know the member well.
3. If you are **asked to fill in** for an absent Alateen sponsor and you are **not** a certified Alateen sponsor, you must decline. Alateens are welcome to join Al-Anon meetings if there are not two certified Alateen sponsors available for their meeting.
4. If you are a member of a **group that is sponsoring an Alateen meeting**, your group is not legally responsible but you are morally responsible for the Alateen group. Ask for **regular reports** from the Alateen sponsors on how the meeting is going. Pay attention if you observe or hear of any inappropriate behavior by Alateens or Alateen sponsors. **Report and seek help** from your District Alateen Chair, District Representative, Area Alateen Coordinator or Area Chairperson (in that order) if necessary.
5. If your **Al-Anon group is sponsoring an Alateen group**, your group must take an annual group conscience vote to continue this sponsorship. The AAPP (Area Alateen Process Person) will be confirming annually that this vote has taken place. An Alateen Sponsor - of the Alateen group being sponsored - will annually ask for this group conscience vote to be taken and for the **Verification – Al-Anon Sponsorship of an Alateen Group form** to be signed by the GR. If your Al-Anon group feels that the Alateen group is not healthy, it is appropriate to voice concerns and to decline renewing the sponsorship. Again, avoiding hurt feelings is not the priority here; ensuring a healthy Alateen group and the safety of Alateens & Alateen sponsors is of foremost importance.