

CONTACT ON RELEASE COMMITTEE
SAN DIEGO/IMPERIAL AREA ASSEMBLY of ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
General Service Area 08

VOLUNTEER GUIDELINES

1. Contacts should be made with two people, one of whom should be experienced in Contact On Release or H&I work. Another person is helpful in providing additional information, and to process the meeting with the new contact.
2. Males should contact males, females contact females.
3. The volunteer contact should attempt to call the number on the request form, if provided by the person requesting AA contact. The person(s) at this number will generally have the most current information about the release day. The Facilities Coordinator will also have the most accurate release-date, but you might need to make frequent contact.
4. Be on time for your meeting with the confined person, or you may miss a chance to ensure the AA hand is there.
5. *AA Contact On Release* is not a taxi service. You are only committed to take the confined person to 3-6 meetings.
6. If possible, the volunteer contact should be attending meetings in the area where the confined person will live. We need to introduce the person to many AA members in their home community.
7. Do not confuse *AA Contact On Release* with sponsorship. Our primary purpose is to help newly released persons through the fears of a new culture, to help give them a head start in Alcoholics Anonymous.
8. In keeping with AA's Tradition 10, volunteer contacts need to remember that *Contact On Release*, as a special committee of AA, *does not provide housing, clothing, jobs, money, or other welfare or social services.* If you decide to provide this service, be sure to make it clear to the confined person that these services are not AA. Please see The *AA Group* pamphlet's section on *What AA Does Not Do*.

WRITING THE CONFINED PERSON

9. Be sure to respond to the confined person's letter within 3 days of its receipt. Prompt response of the confined person's letter will assure that the hand of AA will be there.
10. Experience has taught us that using our home address and phone number in corresponding with the confined person is not wise. Therefore we suggest you use the *Contact On Release* P.O. box with: ATTN: Your First Name and Last Initial (ATTN: Terry D.) and we will forward the letter to you.
11. Be sure to ask their release-date and time. Ask for the location at the facility in which to pick them up.
12. Make sure you have an accurate home address and phone number for the confined person when they get out. You may need this information to make last minute contact with them if their release-date changes.
13. It is helpful to know if they have been to AA on the inside. It will be reassuring to them that AA meetings on the outside are like ones on the inside.
14. If the confined person's home address changes, and is far away from your location, let the Volunteer Coordinator know as soon as possible, so that they can set up another volunteer to make contact.
15. If the confined person does not get released and wants to correspond, the decision to do so is up to you. Contact On Release is not correspondence. AA members wanting to correspond with inmates can do so by calling GSO and asking about ICS (Inmate Correspondence Service).