

Literature Trust Proposal

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Dear Sirs:

The Basic Text, Narcotics Anonymous was written as a gift from those addicts clean in N.A. in the late seventies and early eighties to addicts seeking recovery in N.A.

In a very real sense, God wrote our Book. The energy, ideas and personal experiences assimilated in the material all spring from a spiritual source and lead to spiritual objectives. Our personal experience in working on the book was of the God of our understanding using us as instruments.

Tremendous outlays of personal time, money and perseverance were required on our part to overcome the obstacles of finance, logistics, travel, mailings, literary competence and the where-with all to hold seven conferences each lasting three to nine days over a three year period. Minutes of these conferences were taken and still exist. Our faith and dedication has resulted in a document that has helped hundreds of thousands of addicts get clean and stay clean in N.A. Ownership was intended to reside with the Fellowship. Our World Service Office was reformed to administer the printing and distribution of this, our major work. The book was written by addicts, for addicts. WSO was to copy-right the material on our behalf because we would be in violation of our Twelve Traditions to copyright the work in our names, thereby breaking our anonymity.

I will break my anonymity if subpoenaed yet would hope to retain my right not to do so. I feel intrusion to have to do so. In the matter before the court, case number 97631, I feel our Traditions are being violated by bringing an internal matter into a public court inappropriately.

At the request of a friend, I am submitting this statement relating to the book, Narcotics Anonymous. I was witness to the writing from conception to completion.

I served as chair of the World Service Conference Literature Committee from spring of 1979 to spring of 1981. After my terms as chair were completed, I continued to be an active participant in the WSC Literature Committee until the work was done and approved by the worldwide Fellowship of N.A. in 1982.

We deliberately set out to do the work in such a way as to have no 'by line' and no payment of royalties of any kind. Many individuals worked long and hard that the dream of a book for our people would come true. Working voluntarily offset internal rivalries and made the statement that what we were doing was

Literature Trust Proposal

beyond what money could buy. This is a big factor in the success of the work: that the book was written by addicts for addicts. Recovering addicts have a definite need to know that what they are trusting to work for them has worked for others. We instinctively distrust those who have other goals having nothing to do with our lives and well being. Our Traditions warn us of the destructive powers of money, property and prestige when it comes to recovery and carrying our message of hope.

This intrinsic value of our book being a work done in love and gratitude is deeply embedded in the material. Understanding this may help explain why there is no claim of authorship by individuals who certainly played major roles. At least a thousand clean addicts in N.A. participated in the writing, editing and reviewing of the material. Approval by the entire Fellowship came after a six month approval period with universal reading and discussion within the N.A. Fellowship.

We entrusted the results of our work to the World Service Conference of N.A. By the Twelve Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous, and general policies implemented through the years, the World Service Conference is disallowed to possess or own any permanent property. Under direction of the World Service Conference, our World Service Office prints and distributes our Basic Text, Narcotics Anonymous. Proceeds from the sale of our Basic Text are to fund services to the N.A. Fellowship forever.

The Fellowship of N.A. on its own and without direction, funding or any outside support, collected, compiled and reviewed the material contained in Narcotics Anonymous. The funds involved with the work were accounted for within the World Service Conference of N.A., our representative body. WSO was reformed in 1983 to hold in trust this material: it is not a work done for hire. The N.A. Fellowship will resolve the matters before the court.

I have written a letter to our WSO suggesting that court action expands the problem by including those who may not be familiar with our Traditions and the way we do things in N.A. Violation of anonymity is abhorrent to us.

If this will serve as the affidavit in case number 97631, let it be known that I swear that the statements contained are true under penalty of perjury.

Sincerely,

Bo S.

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Additional Notes

May 23, 1991

One thing that seems helpful is to attempt to define what we mean when we use certain words. Literature, trust, common welfare, revocable, services, royalty

May 2, 1991

Trust - Understanding what is held in common is dependent on participants keeping faith with one another. Violations of this trust injures all and helps none.

Literature - Our written message accurately encoding our responses and strategies in various recovery situations that allow us to stay clean. Writing for other purposes such as selling books or flattering non-addicts would be a terrible violation of trust. Literal statements about our thoughts and feelings in Twelve Step recovery. A way of showing loving concern towards others and gratitude for those who have helped us. We write down what we have learned from others, discovered for ourselves and what we would say to others if we had a chance.

Common welfare - All that is held in trust by addicts seeking recovery in Narcotics Anonymous. All the good things done in our name. All our courage in the face of addiction. All that we have accumulated to help us receive and pass on the N.A. message that recovery for addicts is possible. All that we can do if we keep the faith.

Revocable - The fact that none of our service structure is permanent or unchangeable. This is a necessary item where our disease would make moves to take over sectors where it was unable to take over the whole thing. The ability to revoke power, control or prestige is the only way the Fellowship has to keep its service elements directly dependent.

Services - Extensions of group conscience combining our resources into some effort to help addicts seeking recovery in N.A. Without a basis in group conscience, an act can be good or potentially service yet lack spiritual substance. The strength of service comes from support based on individual commitment to faith and action where the individual can freely say no. These matters need to be made clear to head off those who would insult us with paternalistic roles, prevent the flow of accurate information through our structure and manipulate people and events for their fantasy of what is best for us. In the past, these sorts of abuses have been easy to see yet hard to reconcile.