

**NARCOTICS®  
ANONYMOUS**

**QUESTIONS AND  
ANSWERS ABOUT  
NARCOTICS®  
ANONYMOUS**

**UNAPPROVED LITERATURE  
NOT FOR USE IN N.A. MEETINGS**

**For Review and Input Only**

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT  
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS\*



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*QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS  
ABOUT NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS*

5 1. Q. How and when did N.A. start?

6 A. Narcotics Anonymous, as we know it today, was started by a  
7 group of addicts seeking recovery from addiction. It began in  
8 1953, in Southern California, and has since grown into a  
9 worldwide Fellowship of many thousands of recovering addicts.

10 2. Q. What is the purpose of N.A.?

11 A. The purpose of Narcotics Anonymous is to provide a program of  
12 recovery from the disease of addiction.

13 3. Q. Who are the members of Narcotics Anonymous?

14 A. Anyone with the desire to stop using drugs may join our  
15 Fellowship. Our members come from all walks of life. We share  
16 two important things in common: the disease of addiction and  
17 the desire to stop using. Although we seem to have many  
18 differences--the drugs we used, the circumstances of our lives,  
19 and the degree to which our disease had progressed--a common  
20 vocabulary focused on recovery unites us, so that no addict or  
21 drug is set apart from others.

22 4. Q. Is N.A. only for narcotics addicts?

23 A. No. When our Fellowship was formed, our membership was  
24 comprised mainly of people addicted to narcotics. Over the years,  
25 the variety of drugs used has multiplied, few of which are  
26 labeled as narcotics today. We believe that our problem is not the  
27 use of any specific drug or group of drugs. Our problem is the



1 disease of addiction. Therefore, N.A. is a program of complete  
2 abstinence from all drugs.

3 5. Q. What about dual, cross, or poly addiction?

4 A. These and similar terms have no application for us. We use the  
5 term "addict" when describing ourselves regardless of the drugs  
6 we used. We use the terms "clean," "clean time," and "recovery" to  
7 refer to the recovery process, rather than terms that apply to  
8 specific drugs. We believe that our problem is not the use of any  
9 particular drug or group of drugs. Our problem is the disease of  
10 addiction. All addicts are welcome in N.A. We make no  
11 distinction among them. In this way we carry one consistent,  
12 clear message of recovery that applies to us all.

13 6. Q. Can family members or non-addicts become N.A. members?

14 A. No, non-addicts cannot become members of N.A. Membership is  
15 open only to those who have a desire to stop using drugs. We  
16 need to preserve the atmosphere of trust and identification so  
17 necessary to our recovery. The highest priority at our meetings is  
18 maintaining an environment in which a suffering addict can find  
19 hope and recovery. However, non-addicts such as family, friends  
20 and professionals may attend our open meetings and social  
21 functions to see firsthand how N.A. works.

22 7. Q. How can addicts find Narcotics Anonymous?

23 A. Most cities have N.A. phonedlines listed in their telephone  
24 directories. The people answering these phonedlines will be happy  
25 to give the location of the N.A. meeting nearest you, or send a  
26 meeting list upon request. If Narcotics Anonymous is not listed

1                   in your area, feel free to contact our World Service Office listed  
2                   on the back of this pamphlet.

3       8.     Q.     Where are N.A. meetings held?

4       A.     There are many different kinds of facilities in which N.A.  
5             meetings are held. Regardless of where our meetings are located,  
6             N.A. is in no way affiliated with any other organizations or  
7             facilities.

8       9.     Q.     Are N.A. meetings held in hospitals or institutions?

9       A.     Yes. N.A. service committees sponsor presentations of N.A.  
10            recovery in jails, treatment centers, and recovery/halfway houses.  
11            If a facility wishes to have one of these meetings held on its  
12            premises, it may call the local N.A. phonenumber or write to the  
13            World Service Office. In addition, some regularly scheduled N.A.  
14            meetings are held at hospitals or other institutions, using those  
15            facilities simply as meeting locations.

16     10.    Q.     What are N.A. meetings like?

17     A.     N.A. meetings are run by addicts for addicts. There are a variety  
18            of formats and styles which are used in N.A. meetings. For  
19            example, topic discussion meetings are made up of addicts sharing  
20            the N.A. message. Speaker meetings are those in which addicts  
21            share their stories and personal experiences in recovery. Step  
22            meetings explain the process of the N.A. recovery program. N.A.  
23            literature discussion meetings cover our written message.



1 11. Q. What is the difference between open and closed N.A.  
2 meetings?

3 A. A closed meeting is only for addicts and for those who think they  
4 may have a problem with drugs. An open meeting is for anyone  
5 who wishes to experience the N.A. Fellowship.

6 12. Q. Can an addict attend an N.A. meeting while still using  
7 drugs?

8 A. Newcomers do not have to be drug-free when they get to N.A.  
9 After their first meeting, we suggest they keep coming back and  
10 come back clean (drug-free). We ask that no drugs or  
11 paraphernalia be brought to any meeting. This is for the  
12 protection of the Fellowship.

13 13. Q. Is N.A. a religious organization?

14 A. No. Narcotics Anonymous is not affiliated with any religious  
15 group, nor does it advocate any particular religious beliefs. Our  
16 program is a set of principles--Twelve Steps and Twelve  
17 Traditions--which are spiritual in nature.

18 14. Q. Who runs N.A.?

19 A. There is no governing body in N.A. N.A. members are elected or  
20 appointed to serve the needs of the Fellowship.

21 15. Q. What does it cost to participate in N.A.?

22 A. Nothing. There are no fees or dues. We take a collection at  
23 meetings from members who wish to contribute. This money pays  
24 for N.A.'s expenses. In this way, we remain self-supporting and  
25 free of outside control.

1 16. Q. Does N.A. operate detoxification, treatment, or recovery  
2 facilities?

3 A. No. N.A. does not operate or affiliate with any professional (or  
4 other) agencies or facilities. We employ no counselors or  
5 treatment staff.

6 17. Q. Why is N.A. membership anonymous?

7 A. The principle of anonymity protects the members and the  
8 integrity of the Fellowship. Anonymity provides a safe setting  
9 for each and every member to seek recovery on an equal basis.

10 18. Q. How can I find out more about N.A.?

11 A. Attend an N.A. meeting. To locate an N.A. meeting, call the N.A.  
12 phoneline in your local community or contact our World Service  
13 Office at P.O. Box 9999, Van Nuys, CA 91409.

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