

## Suggestions for the Temporary Contact

1. You may be the first outside A.A. member the prospect meets. In that respect you represent the Fellowship. It is important to be relaxed, friendly, and attentive.
2. Keep the general conversation related to recovery. Avoid discussing the new member's treatment or confinement. We have no opinion on outside issues.
3. Take time to introduce the new person to as many A.A. members as possible. Do not, however, push your contact. Some people are very shy.
4. Invite them to the "meeting after the meeting" if there is one and show them how enjoyable sobriety can be.
5. Your commitment is usually finished after attending six meetings. Use good recovery judgment about when to end the relationship.
6. Make sure the newly released member receives meeting schedules, A.A. literature, and phone numbers if possible.
7. Encourage them to attend meetings, find a home group and get a sponsor as soon as possible. Explain that even a temporary sponsor would be better than not having one.
8. Share your experience, strength, and hope with the newly released member just as you would with anyone else in A.A.
9. Be familiar with the suggestions of the BTG program contained in this pamphlet. We don't offer or imply any other service and assistance unless we personally want to provide it.
10. Respect the complete anonymity of the new member including their confinement.

## Please Remember

- It is best to take the new member to a meeting within 24-48 hours of release.
- You are not responsible for the member's attitude or actions in or out of the meetings.
- It is suggested that you do not become a taxi service, loan money or anything of value.
- We do not act in any reporting or communication capacity regarding the A.A. member and the justice system. We also do not intercede on their behalf concerning any decision from their administrators.
- Alcoholism is sometimes linked together with other addictions as substance abuse. Non alcoholics are frequently introduced to Alcoholics Anonymous and encouraged to attend meetings. Although any visitor who is interested in A.A. may attend open meetings, only those with a drinking problem are meant to attend closed meetings.

## Suggested reading from GSO

<i>Where Do I Go From Here?</i> .....	(F-4)
<i>Information on A.A.</i> .....	(F-2)
<i>A.A. At A Glance</i> .....	(F-1)
<i>A Newcomer Asks</i> .....	(P-24)
<i>Q. &amp; A. About Sponsorship</i> .....	(P-15)
<i>Bridging the Gap</i> .....	(P-49)

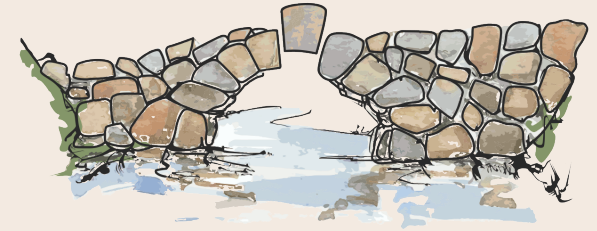
### For more information contact:

[bridgingthegap@snjaa.org](mailto:bridgingthegap@snjaa.org)

**Or visit your local monthly  
District meeting.**

For A.A.s on the *Outside*

# Bridging the Gap



## Prerelease Contact Program



• Temporary Contact Volunteer •

Connecting *Inside* A.A. Members  
to the *Outside* A.A. Community

AREA 45  
Southern New Jersey

## Temporary Contact Form

Please add my name to the list of temporary contacts. I would like to become a *Bridging the Gap* volunteer in our District.

### Your Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Sobriety Date \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Year \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: M / F / Other

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_

Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Group \_\_\_\_\_

*Please notify the BTG Coordinator when there are changes in your contact information.*

### Do you have a preference?

- Correctional Facilities  
 Treatment Facilities  
 Both

**Please tear off and return this form to the *Bridging the Gap* coordinator or your GSR.**

**Best Option:  
Complete the  
form online.**



## Dear A.A. Member,

*Bridging the Gap*, or BTG, helps a confined member make the transition from meetings in a facility to the A.A. Fellowship in their community. As a temporary contact you are being asked to guide them through this process. You may volunteer to serve in corrections, treatment, or both.

When a confined member makes a BTG request we match that person to a temporary contact in the community where they will be living. If you have volunteered for this type of service, we will call you, get your okay, and then send you their information.

Your job is simple. You contact the new member as soon as possible and make arrangements to take them to a meeting when they are released. In general, your responsibility is to accompany them to as many as six meetings in your local area.

Note: It is not implied that you automatically become their sponsor, not even temporarily. It is best if the word sponsor is not used to describe this type of commitment. The term temporary contact is preferred.

If you are willing to be the hand of A.A. when a confined member reaches out, please complete the temporary contact form and give it to your GSR; the BTG coordinator, corrections, or treatment chairperson; or mail it to one of the addresses provided.

All volunteers need to adhere to the rules of the facility regarding contact with inmates and treatment clients. This applies while they are in the facility as well as after they are released.

**Best Option:  
Complete the  
form online.**



## Program Procedures

1. Those currently in correctional and treatment facilities, are eligible for BTG when they are within three months or less of confinement.
2. The new member fills out a pre-release form and mails it to the Bridging the Gap coordinator or to the committee responsible for processing requests.
3. A temporary contact is located and given the confined members contact information.
4. The temporary contact is asked to communicate with the inside member within two weeks to confirm the request.
5. The inside member provides such information as release date, arrival time in the local area, address and phone number.
6. Some new members, especially treatment clients, may require a phone call instead of a letter to expedite contact arrangements depending on timing of the release date.
7. The temporary contact will meet the new member at an agreed upon time and place to attend their first A.A. meeting together. It's important to be on time.
8. It is suggested that the first meeting be viewed as a regular twelfth step call and that you take another A.A. member with you. Use the same guidelines you would with any newcomer.
9. Review the Bridging the Gap program with the new member in order to reduce the possibility of misunderstandings. Remind them it is only temporary.

# Bridging the Gap

