

GVIS: GUIDELINES FOR SHARING AT TREATMENT FACILITIES

1. Please arrive on time. Meeting times are specific and late comers may not be admitted.
 - a. *“Once an A.A. commitment is made to any institution or organization, we cannot let our Fellowship down by not living up to the agreement fully. We go to any lengths to perform faithfully the services promised in the name of A.A. We try not to let anything interfere with keeping our word.”* ([A.A. in Treatment Settings, P-27, page 9](#))
2. Abide by and become aware of all the rules of the facility. A.A. members are guests of the facility.
3. Panel members are discouraged from giving out their personal contact information to clients. Please only give out Bridging the Gap business cards.
4. Please when sharing your personal stories, we ask that you keep the content appropriate and not full of drinking and drug glorification. Gory stories can create cravings. Concentrate more on recovery stories.
 - a. *“What is important to share is the pain we once felt and the joy in recovery we now feel”* ([A.A. in Treatment Settings, P-27, page 8](#))
5. Please no outside food or drink are to be brought in.
6. Please be conscious of having no conflict of interest: If you have a friend or relative in the facility, we prefer you refrain from attending until they are discharged.
7. Respectfully keep in mind this is a Detox/ Hospital or Treatment facility and that medications are administered. Refrain from judgement or opinion about the services offered or the individual’s treatment plan.
 - a. *“... the professional treatment is in charge of its patients or clients and is responsible for them. If A.A. members do not conform to the rules and regulations of the facility, they may not be asked to return.”* ([A.A. in Treatment Settings, P-27, page 9](#))
8. Absolutely no racial, sexual, homophobic, or inappropriate comments. Be respectful to both staff, clients, and other panel members.
 - a. *“Remember that you are A.A. to people in that facility. Your language, appearance, manners, and mood all affect other people’s opinions of our Fellowship. Your behavior can make sure A.A. is always welcome”* ([A.A. in Treatment Settings, P-27, page 16](#))
9. Please wear appropriate clothing.
10. Try not to use profanity, even mild profanity.
11. Most facilities are non-smoking facilities. Try to not smoke immediately before the meeting, perhaps triggering a client to obsess over wanting a nicotine fix.
12. All units are scent free environments. Consider those with allergies.
13. Please do not speak negatively about other recovery methods or how our 12-step program is better than others. The 12-steps work through attraction rather than promotion.
14. Please no visible cell phones! Do not text or look at your phone during the meeting.
15. Backpacks should be held by staff until you leave the facility or put in a safe place.
16. Chairpersons (liaisons) - please choose your speakers wisely. Individual with mental or emotional disorders can distort the “message” in a harmful way. Please make sure you orientate your panel members, or that they’ve been to orientation at Central Office. Orientation is the 2nd Monday of every month at 7:00 PM.
17. Setup and clean up at each meeting.
18. Please leave within 15 to 30 minutes of the meeting’s conclusion.

For question or comments contact:

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