

# Sponsorship

“**Sponsorship** is a mutual and confidential sharing between two Al-Anon or Alateen members. A Sponsor is someone with whom a member can discuss personal problems or questions; someone who willingly shares the experience, strength, and hope of the Al-Anon/Alateen program” (from *Sponsorship, What It's All About* [P-31]).

## Al-Anon Personal Sponsors

After a period of time, Al-Anon members will want to choose a personal Sponsor with whom they can identify. Members can encourage newcomers to find a Sponsor by sharing that Sponsors provide guidance; however Sponsors do not direct or give advice. The new member may have discussed problems with the contact before coming to meetings. This contact may or may not be asked to continue as a Spon-

sor; however, neither a contact nor a newly-chosen Sponsor should be used as a substitute for a meeting. Additional information is published in the pamphlet *Sponsorship, What It's All About* (P-31), and in the bookmark *Sponsorship—Working Together to Recover* (M-78), as well as on the Al-Anon/Alateen Members' Web site in the "Individuals" tab.

## Service Sponsors

Service sponsorship is a special relationship where one member shares their service experience with another member. This type of sponsorship can be a one-time situation, such as an outgoing trusted servant supporting their replacement, or an ongoing relationship. Service sponsorship helps both the service Sponsor and the sponsee acquire new skills while being an example of personal growth through service. Al-Anon Family Groups worldwide benefits when members are enthusiastic about service. For more information about service sponsorship, read the pamphlet *Service Sponsorship—Working Smarter, Not Harder* (P-88).

## Alateen Group Sponsors

An Alateen Group Sponsor is an Al-Anon member who is currently certified by the Area process as an Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service (AMIAS), meets all of the Area's Requirements for service as an Alateen Group Sponsor, and has made a commitment to be of service to an Alateen meeting on a regular basis. (See "Alateen Policy" in the "Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies" section of the *Service Manual*.)

## Alateen Personal Sponsors

Just as Al-Anon members sponsor each other, Alateens sponsor each other. Alateen personal Sponsors are fellow Alateen members who can discuss personal problems or questions with those they sponsor. Personal Sponsors willingly share the experience, strength, and hope of the Alateen program. Al-Anon members do not sponsor individual Alateens.