

# Belief About Corrections

By Tom I. and Harold L.

1. The recovery program of A.A. is precisely the same for those on the inside as those on the outside.
2. The people inside the walls are much more like us than unlike us.
3. The challenges met in recovery are at least as great for those on the inside as for anyone.
4. All of A.A.'s 12 Traditions can be practiced 100% on the inside.
5. Some decent, capable people are confined to correctional facilities, and some are not so admirable.
6. Corrections staff are usually willing to offer full cooperation if they understand our primary purpose and function.
7. Sound business procedures contribute significantly to the spirit of our cooperative relationship with corrections staff.
8. We spend far too much time working on arrangements and routine operations.
9. We spend far too little time working on the quality and effectiveness of what we do.
10. A sound and well-implemented program of recovery works well with reliable results.
11. People are most willing to respond to specific requests for service or material help.
12. We can help someone in a correctional facility by merely showing up.
13. Our work is with fellow alcoholics who happen to be confined, not inmates, offenders, prisoners, convicts, etc.
14. Don't do anything for one person you could or would not do for everyone in the group.
15. Being an enthusiastic, good example of recovery is an outstanding contribution.
16. KEEPING COMMITMENTS IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. WE MUST WALK LIKE WE TALK.
17. Profane and vulgar language impresses no one.
18. As an established frequency, speaker meetings should be a regular feature of groups in corrections.
19. Always remember that someone new to A.A. is present in most meetings in correctional facilities.

20. Our chief responsibility is to deliver an adequate demonstration of A.A. to the newcomer.
21. No service is more rewarding than a long-term, regular commitment to an A.A. group in a correctional facility, where all parties are accountable to each other. This effort produces a powerful experience to be shared by everyone.
22. Encourage all members to attend A.A., and remember to stress that they take full ownership of why they attend the A.A. group.
23. MAJOR POINT! If they are not working the A.A. program on the inside, make it clear that they will never work the A.A. program on the outside.
24. It is possible for A.A. members and groups on the inside to practice A.A.'s Seventh Tradition and be self-supporting through their own contributions. This spiritual discipline is highly encouraged and takes the efforts of all parties to make it work.
25. Providing A.A. literature for the members is imperative to help keep everyone informed and inspired.
26. Helping secure A.A. Grapevines, both new and old issues, is a great way to carry the A.A. message. Members on the inside are encouraged to submit their own stories to the A.A. Grapevine to be considered for future issues.
27. A.A. Correction Correspondence is an excellent form of communication for members behind the walls and outside the walls. This service is provided safely and securely through the General Service Office.
28. Helping groups receive the Box 459 newsletter is an excellent way for members on the inside to stay informed about A.A. as a whole.
29. Help members understand that they can expel the compulsion to drink and live a life where they become happy and usefully whole, despite their past deeds and future outcomes.
30. Creating sound and efficient corrections committees at the area, district, and group levels is the most effective way to carry the message into correctional facilities.
31. The first 24-48 hours are the most critical time upon release from a correctional facility. Utilizing programs like Bridging the Gap to help ensure that nobody falls through the cracks is imperative for lasting sobriety for the members being released back into society.
32. Volunteers in Corrections need to respect all lines of administration and communication inside the correctional facility.

33. Developing a strategy to engage the members on the inside with the 12 Steps will help them achieve permanent sobriety. This strategy must be tailored to the current context's needs and its members' average duration in a particular correctional setting.