

Red Light Green Light Question #1: Is the term "my qualifier" conference approved?

## **1. Forum, December 2013, Talk to Each Other Segment:**

### Using the term "qualifier"

I have become increasingly aware of the use of the term "qualifier" at meetings over the last few years.

At the newcomer meetings that I attend, newcomers have repeatedly asked what "qualifier" means.

When something doesn't feel right to me, I look to our literature for guidance, and I have not been able to find any reference to that term. I did however read Tradition Five, as well as *Paths to Recovery*(B-24) p. 180, where it states that "only the prospective members themselves can determine whether they are eligible for membership in Al-Anon." Using the term "qualifier" seems to me to add a pressure that they have to immediately identify an alcoholic to comply with some rule that we have.

## **2. World Service Conference Summary 2015, Second Agenda Topic:**

How can we clarify our primary purpose while welcoming members who need our program who may have a drug addicted friend or family member?

Conference member responded segment:

When I talked about a "qualifier," my Sponsor told me to look in the mirror.

### **3. Following the session, a Delegate summarized the discussion:**

- Language is important—avoid the terms “my addict;” “my qualifier;” “my alcoholic”.
- Apply the spiritual principles of Patience, Tolerance, Understanding, Kindness, and Respect. Educate with compassion.

### **4. World Service Conference Summary 2013, Taskforce Workshop on the Importance of CAL in meetings:**

I have been asked by members the reasoning behind using new terms in our literature, such as “qualifier” and “crosstalk,” as these are being perceived as accepted terms.

*If you find examples of where in our literature you can find these terms, the Literature Committee would be glad to discuss this. When the WSO receives share rings with the term “qualifier,” the staff changes it to the term “alcoholic” for consistency. In addition, words do change and outside terms have become more widespread, not just in Al-Anon, but in the world. At one point, detachment was considered an outside term and now it is a part of our language.*

### **5. World Service Conference Summary 1989, Projects in Progress segment:**

A glossary of terms was considered for this work but not supported by the Committee. Members expressed the opinion that a certain amount of recovery takes place through the process of trying to understand; further, many terms, phrases and concepts used in Al-Anon do not lend themselves to a dictionary definition.