

To: World Service Conference Members  
From: Member Services Section  
RE: Reoccurring Question: service by Al-Anon members who have attended A.A.  
Date: December 6, 2013

This is a continuation of the memo series of WSO answers to reoccurring questions from the fellowship. It is intended to help Area Delegates to respond to these frequently asked questions.

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**Question: A member wants to serve as Group Representative (GR), and says they are no longer a member of A.A. The policy is that members of Al-Anon who are also members of A.A. are not to serve as GR, District Representative (DR), Delegate, etc. Is this person considered a dual member?**

**Response:** If an Al-Anon member states they are no longer in A.A. (or affiliated themselves with A.A. in error) but pursues service in the Al-Anon service structure as a GR, their service work can become controversial. If the person is known to have attended A.A., their attendance at Al-Anon service meetings may create a distraction from carrying the message because the member's A.A. history will be questioned. Then the discussions revolve around an individual and not the principle of carrying our message. Other Al-Anon members who want to do what is right and best for Al-Anon may not know the details of the membership status with A.A. and more conflict can happen at the district and Area levels. Members may think the group and district should not have someone serving who is ignoring the worldwide group conscience of our fellowship on dual members. Because of their history, this member may always be controversial in Al-Anon service. When groups and members understand the policy and the potential for distracting controversy, most members do not want to put any Al-Anon member in that kind of difficult position.

Experience Areas have shared with WSO has shown that when this is shared with the person who is no longer affiliated with A.A. and wants to serve Al-Anon, the person stepped away, for the good of the group, from their plan to serve and found other ways to serve within the group, and in positions that don't lead to the World Service Conference.

Service to Al-Anon/Alateen by Al-Anon members who are also members of A.A. in other positions is encouraged. They can hold group service positions as determined by the group conscience such as Secretary, Treasurer and other positions described in the "Suggested Duties of Group Officers/Leaders" in the "Groups at Work" section of the Service Manual, with the exception of GR. Dual members of Al-Anon and A.A. can serve as Alateen Group Sponsors, in accordance with their Area Alateen Requirements. Carrying the message to institutions, schools, and professionals, answering the local Al-Anon meeting line, serving on convention planning committees, sponsoring newcomers, and other forms of public outreach are just a few ways that all Al-Anon members, regardless of other affiliations, can serve the fellowship. Participation by all Al-Anon/Alateen members is the key to harmony and growth in Al-Anon, and it is hoped that all groups provide additional service opportunities for all members, including dual members of Al-Anon and A.A., that do not lead to serving at the World Service Conference level.