



Al-Anon and Alateen Family Groups

Together We Share Strength and Hope

Al-Anon Southwest Michigan www.SWMichiganAl-Anon.org p Al-Anon Family Groups World Service Office www.Al-Anon.org

An Open Letter to Health Care Professionals

Dear Healthcare Provider,

Since 1956 the American Medical Association has recognized alcoholism as a primary progressive disease. We at Al-Anon and Alateen know that it is also a family disease that can affect some or all members of a household both physically and emotionally. It has been our experience that the relatives and friends of alcoholics often seek medical help for a variety of stress-related symptoms.

Al-Anon is a mutual support fellowship that offers a program of recovery to the relatives and friends of alcoholics. Alateen, a part of Al-Anon, is for young people who are equally affected by an alcoholic.

If you suspect someone's drinking has contributed to the cause of your patient's symptoms, we urge you to recommend Al-Anon and Alateen as part of their treatment. Al-Anon and Alateen is a mutual-support program that has brought recovery and hope to thousands whose lives have been adversely affected by another's alcoholism.

How Else Can You Help?

- Visit the Al-Anon and Alateen World Service Office Website at www.al-anon.org. Al-Anon Family Groups offer a variety of resources designed to assist professionals. Look at the link "for professional". This site is in English, Spanish, and French.
- Suggest to your patients that they visit our local Al-Anon and Alateen website: www.SWMichiganAl-Anon.org to find a schedule of local meetings, or they may call our local 24-hour Al-Anon answering service at 269-993-0589 to leave a private message. At such meetings your patients can find understanding and support that complement and reinforce your treatment recommendations.

If you or your staff would like additional information please visit the above local website or email us at SWMichiganAlAnon@gmail.com or call our answering service at 269-993-0589 and leave a private message. An Al-Anon member will return your call. We hope you will find opportunities in your practice to assist your patients by suggesting Al-Anon and Alateen.

Thank you, Southwest Michigan Area Al-Anon and Alateen Public Outreach Committee

Al-Anon and Alateen Family Groups: Are you troubled by someone's drinking? Al-Anon and Alateen are fellowships of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength and hope in order to solve their common problems.

For information or meetings in Southwest Michigan, visit www.SWMichiganAl-Anon.org, call a 24-hour Al-Anon answering service at 269-993-0589, email SWMichiganAlAnon@gmail.com or write Al-Anon, c/o Kalamazoo Alano Club, 933 S. Burdick Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49001.