

# Use of the Al-Anon Name

What does this mean and  
what does this represent today?



# The Al-Anon Name is Protected by Copyright and Trademark

- The WSO will register any group designating itself as an Al-Anon Family Group with the understanding that it will abide by the Traditions and that meetings will be open to any Al-Anon member. *(2022-2025 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual V2, [SM] p. 85)*
- By registering as an Al-Anon Family Group (AFG) with Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. (AFG, Inc.), a group is granted permission to use the Al-Anon trademarked name and logo without modification for the purposes of Public Outreach as well as AFG, Inc. copyrighted materials for the sole purpose of conducting its meetings. [Al-Anon Group Registration / Records Change Form](#)

## The Al-Anon Name is Protected by Copyright and Trademark (continued)

- “The WSO. . . maintains and protects copyrights and trademarks” (including the Al-Anon name). (SM, p. 171)
- “Registration is required before groups are granted permission to share or display any copyrighted materials during their meetings.” (SM, p. 27) see slide 8
- A group that identifies itself as an Al-Anon group without registering is in violation of our principles and general primary purpose. (World Service Office)

# Why Groups Need to Be Registered with WSO

- Using the name “Al-Anon” carries with it responsibility which is now outlined on the new group registration and change form(s). (World Service Office)
- In keeping with Tradition Six, we do not lend our name to outside enterprises, which includes groups that are not registered (with WSO) and using the Al-Anon name.
- Any public website connected to a geographic structure is to abide by the same principles. (World Service Office)

## The Benefits of Registering with WSO

- The group is findable to a newcomer/new member on the World Service Office (WSO) [al-anon.org](http://al-anon.org) online meeting directory. *If a registered group has an Al-Anon Information Service (AIS) Office, Literature Distribution Center (LDC) or District website, it will be listed in both places.*
- The group conscience of registered groups is heard through the World Service Conference, a link to worldwide Al-Anon and Alateen that assures unity of purpose and a common bond of love and friendship available to each member, no matter where they may travel. (SM, pg. 27)

## How do Al-Anon Groups Update/Register in the SCWS Area?

- Our Area is unique. We have our own Group Update / New Group Registration form to make it easier for our groups. We are the “one stop shop” to update all group information.
- The information sent to our Group Records Coordinator (GRC) is updated **directly** to the WSO database, and the information is then copied to the local AIS Office, LDC or District website.
- Our GRC also copies the District Representative.
- The direct link for our online form:  
[Al-Anon Group Registration / Records Change Form](#)

# Questions/Comments?

## Reminder:

- Only “members” of the AWSC have “voice”
- Raise your Zoom hand (click on “reactions”, “raise hand”)
- 1 minute at the “mic” for Questions; 2 minutes for Comments
- Please lower your hand if another member asks your question or makes your comment.

**The WSO will register any group designating itself as an Al-Anon Family Group with the understanding that it will abide by the Traditions and that the meeting will be open to any Al-Anon members. (*Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies*)**

**By registering as an Al-Anon Family Group with Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters, Inc. (AFG, Inc.), a group is granted permission to use the Al-Anon trademarked name and logo without modification for the purposes of Public Outreach as well as AFG, Inc. copyrighted materials for the sole purpose of conducting its meetings. Al-Anon copyrighted materials are limited to:**

- **Suggested Welcome, Suggested Closing, Suggested Preambles to the Twelve Steps, the Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions, and Twelve Concepts of Service as they are found in the current version of the Al-Anon / Alateen Service Manual (P24/27), without alteration or modification.**
- **Conference Approved Literature (CAL) screenshots or printouts, when accompanied by copyright acknowledgement and limited in scope to content possible to be shared and discussed during one meeting.**

**This permission is granted for as long as the group continues to hold meetings; remains in compliance with AFG, Inc. intellectual property policies and instructions; refrains from distributing or posting permanently, in a public forum, copyrighted materials; and remains an Active registered group with AFG, Inc. These materials may not be modified and permission to use these materials may not be transferred to anyone without prior written approval. The group shall not use the materials in any way that could damage the reputation and goodwill that has been established in the materials.**

***(from the Al-Anon New Group Registration / Group Update form)***