



Narcotics Anonymous®

IP No. 11

Sponsorship

Revised

When I got clean, I was insecure, lonely, and willing to do anything for some comfort and company. My natural tendency was to satisfy those desires and not have to focus on what was necessary to build a foundation for my recovery. Thank God for the integrity of those members who supported me and didn't take advantage of me in the early days of my recovery.

Sometimes members wonder whether it would be okay to have more than one sponsor. While some addicts do choose this route, most caution against it, explaining that having more than one sponsor might tempt them to be manipulative in order to get the answers or guidance they are looking for.

WHEN should we get a sponsor?

Most members consider it important to get a sponsor as soon as possible, while others explain that it is just as crucial to take a little time to look around and make an informed decision. Going to a lot of meetings helps us to determine who we are comfortable with and who we can learn to trust. While we are looking for a sponsor, if someone offers, we do not have to say yes. One thing to remember is that, if we get a sponsor to help us in our early recovery, we are free to change sponsors later if that person isn't meeting our needs.

I compared the timing of when to get a sponsor to drowning. I needed that life-saver/sponsor immediately!

When we are new to the program, we need to reach out to other addicts for help and support. It is never too early to get and use phone numbers and begin sharing with other recovering addicts. Our program works because of the help we can offer each other. We no longer need to live in isolation, and we begin to feel part of something larger than ourselves. Sponsorship helps us to see that, in coming to NA, we have finally come home.

You may have questions about sponsorship that this IP did not answer for you. While there may not be "right" or "wrong" answers to your questions—the experience of our fellowship varies from community to community and member to member—we do have a book on sponsorship that addresses many issues related to sponsorship in greater depth.

Contacts:

Copyright © 1983, 2004 by
Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc.
All rights reserved

World Service Office
PO Box 9999
Van Nuys, CA 91409 USA
Tel. (818) 773-9999
Fax (818) 700-0700
Website: www.na.org

World Service Office—EUROPE
48 Rue de l'Été
B-1050 Brussels, Belgium
Tel. +32/2/646-6012
Fax +32/2/649-9239

World Service Office—CANADA
150 Britannia Rd. E. Unit 21
Mississauga, Ontario, L4Z 2A4, Canada
Tel. (905) 507-0100
Fax (905) 507-0101



This is NA Fellowship-approved literature.

Narcotics Anonymous,    and The NA Way
are registered trademarks of
Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Incorporated.

ISBN 978-0-912075-23-5 English 5/07

WSO Catalog Item No. EN-3111