

Tips On Making 12th Step Calls

(From the May 2001 "Lifeline", A.A.'s St. Paul & Suburban Minnesota Intergroup Newsletter)

When a 12th Step call is received, we begin with the assumption that another human beings' life is at stake, literally. This means that, without delay, this call is to be answered at once.

- 1st - Arrange for another AA member to go with you.
- 2nd - Have a quiet time, and read chapter 7 in the Big Book.
- 3rd - Maintain anonymity.
- 4th - Talk to the prospect alone, if possible. (That is, without their family or friends there).
- 5th - Congratulate them on wanting to do something about their drinking problem.
- 6th - Give them some AA literature.
- 7th - Note well what the Big Book says at the bottom of page 94: "On your first visit, tell him about the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous. If he shows interest, give him a copy of the Big Book."
- 8th - Each of you tell them "what you used to be like, what happened, and what you are like now."
- 9th - If they want to talk, let them.
- 10th - At the top of page 95, it advises, "Give them a chance to think it over. Sometimes they are anxious to proceed at once, and you may be tempted to encourage that. This sometimes is a mistake. If they have trouble later, they are likely to say you rushed them. If they are sincerely interested and want to see you again, ask them to read the Big Book in the interval (at least ask them to read from "The Doctor's Opinion" through to page 164). After doing that (reading the book), they must decide for themselves if they want to go on or not.
- 11th - When you are ready to leave, tell them you will call on them the following day if they want, and they will have had time to read up to page 164, or had time to think about your conversation.
- 12th - Note that the second paragraph on page 96 says, "Suppose you are now making your second visit to the person. They have read up to page 164, and they are prepared to go through with the Twelve Steps of the Program of Recovery." At this point you review the 12 Steps with them, and arrange to bring them to your group meeting. If they do not want to go on, or feel that they can do it some other way, invite them to call on you again if they change their mind and decide that AA can be of help.

Finally - Note how the Big Book, at the top of page 96 says, "We find it a waste of time to keep chasing a person who can not, or will not, work with you. If you leave such a person alone, they may soon become convinced that they cannot recover by themselves."

Gail W., Kansas City