



# Al-Anon/Alateen Family Groups

Strength and Hope for Families and Friends of Problem Drinkers

Grand Rapids, Michigan and Surrounding Area [www.grafg.org](http://www.grafg.org) • Al-Anon Family Groups World Service Office [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org)

## An Open Letter to a Lawyer

Dear Counselor:

Alcoholism is a disease that is widespread and debilitating. Alcoholism is often hidden. Problem drinking can often have severe consequences for family members. We at Al-Anon/Alateen are trying to reach out to families who need help. Many times neither the family nor the drinker can see the correlation between the drinking and the family's problems.

When clients come to you for a divorce, a restraining order, or help with delinquent children, you become their counselor in many aspects of their lives. If you suspect your client is or has been affected by a problem drinker, we suggest you or your client contact Al-Anon family Groups. Many families have taken their initial steps towards recovery through their attorney's recommendation to contact Al-Anon/Alateen.

We are most grateful for your professional awareness and understanding of our program. We recognize that you are in a unique position to refer your clients to Al-Anon Family groups.

### How Else Can You Help?

- Visit the Al-Anon/Alateen World Service Office website at [www.al-anon.org](http://www.al-anon.org). Al-Anon Family Groups offer a variety of resources designed to assist professionals.

Look at the link "for professionals," "teens," and "media." You will find counselors, therapists and others in a range of professions encouraging the friends and families of problem drinkers to attend Al-Anon meetings. At meetings, your clients can find understanding and support. This site is in English, Spanish as well as French.

- Suggest to your clients that they visit the local Al-Anon/Alateen website [www.grafg.org](http://www.grafg.org) for a schedule of local meetings or call 24-hour Al-Anon answering service at 616-222-0632.
- Request an introductory sample packet of information and posters for your office.

If you or your staff would like additional information please visit our website at [www.grafg.org](http://www.grafg.org) or e-mail us at [info@grafg.org](mailto:info@grafg.org) or call 616-222-0632 to speak with an Al-Anon member directly.

We hope you will find opportunities in your practice to help your clients by suggesting the Al-Anon/Alateen.

Thank you, Grand Rapids and Surrounding Area Public Outreach Committee