



'Steps Back To Life' group of **Narcotics Anonymous**

To Whom It May Concern:

In keeping with the Third, Sixth, Tenth and Twelfth Traditions of Narcotics Anonymous, our group will not sign court cards or any other type of attendance slip, or participate in any way of keeping records or documentation of any kind regarding who attends or has attended an NA meeting.

We cannot verify attendance at an NA meeting in any way, for anyone.

Our traditions clearly state the importance of non-affiliation with outside institutions. We fully support parolee/probated/court ordered addicts being allowed to attend NA meetings, but in the parolee's (etc.) eyes, signing attendance slips of any kind link Narcotics Anonymous with judicial and correctional authorities.

This does not allow for the trust that works when one addict helps another. We feel that any requirement which places us in a position to be viewed by attendees as authority figures, or holding affiliation with an authority group, negates our attempts to offer anonymity to parolees or probationers attending meetings. Forcing addicts on court order to seek out a signature verifying meeting attendance might put them unduly in the spotlight and feeling anything but anonymous.

In addition, being an anonymous program means that one is not required to use one's name if they don't want to, yet by giving a court slip to a group representative to sign, that person would have to see the persons name and even verify through identification that it is the correct person. This also puts the signer in the position of giving up their own anonymity.

In order to maintain the anonymity of those in attendance, we cannot sign attendance slips.

Narcotics Anonymous, in our various publications makes the following points;

- *We keep no attendance records
- *We are not affiliated with any other organizations
- *We are not connected with any law enforcement groups
- *We are under no surveillance at any time
- *We feel totally free to express ourselves in the fellowship because no law enforcement agencies are involved
- *We feel the ideal state for our fellowship exists when addicts can come freely and openly to an N.A. meeting, whenever and wherever they choose, and leave just as freely if they want.

We feel sure that you can see how asking Narcotics Anonymous or a representative of Narcotics Anonymous to participate in any method or of attendance verification is in direct conflict with the principles of our program.

Many addicts have credited professionals such as you, for directing them to NA. Within the Department of Corrections and the Judicial System, we know that you work with many addicted individuals. We hope that we can come to a mutual understanding that is beneficial to these individuals, your endeavor, and Narcotics Anonymous. In light of this, we request a meeting with you so that we may address this issue.

Please contact our Public Information Chairperson for the Nassau Area by calling 516-827-9500
or Email: PublicInfo@NassauNa.org

For more information on Narcotics Anonymous, please visit our web site www.NassauNa.org