

BRIDGING THE GAP TEMPORARY CONTACT SIGN-UP FORM

What is a Bridging the Gap “temporary contact”? How does it work?

A BTG temporary contact is matched up with a same-sex alcoholic discharging from a treatment or correctional facility who has expressed a desire for contact from A.A. The purpose is to help the new AA get acquainted and comfortable in A.A, giving them an introduction to sponsorship, home groups, the 12 steps, the 12 traditions, and service. Also, of note, temporary contacts are NOT intended to be the new AA’s sponsor! But a temporary contact is encouraged to share with the new AA their experience on how they chose their sponsor.

The contact is TEMPORARY only. You are asked to take them to (or meet them at, if they have transportation) up to 6 different meetings upon their ‘release’ from treatment or the correctional facility. Past experience has shown that attending an A.A. meeting as soon as possible after discharge is vital to making a sober transition to life on the outside. They may or may not have some limited knowledge about A.A. depending on what facility they have been in; their knowledge may be factual or it may not. And some may have no experience with Alcoholics Anonymous. We have NO opinion as representatives of A.A. about what they did in treatment, but we are responsible for sharing with them what A.A. is and is NOT. Some professionals refer to alcoholism and drug addiction as “substance abuse.” Non-alcoholics are, therefore, sometimes introduced to A.A. and encouraged to attend A.A. meetings. Anyone may attend an open A.A. meeting, but only those with a drinking problem may attend closed meetings.

Bridging the Gap temporary contacts do NOT provide housing, food, clothing, jobs, money or such other services. We are not taxi services; and it is important we show the newcomer what AA is NOT and can NOT do, as much as we show them what AA is and can do. The chapter “Working with Others” is a great reference!

Sobriety requirements are 1 year of sobriety. You may take someone with as little as 1 day sober with you, however. And two people should try to go on each service call. So two or more may go, but at least one person should have 1 year of sobriety, and you should not have so many people on the call that you lose focus on the purpose of the service call. Please only sign up here as a contact, though, if you have at least 1 year of sobriety.

Jessica D is the BTG coordinator for the Knoxville area and you may contact her at any time with any questions you may have at (865) 964-0911. She will be contacted when inmates or patients are interested in the program nearing their release. She will then be in contact with ‘temporary contacts’ provided through this sign-up to get an AA in contact with the interested party. Thank you for your interest!

P.S. If you live or work in a surrounding area of Knoxville, you’re interest is still welcome! People in those areas need support as well. There is a place on the sign-up sheet to list the area of town you live and work in.

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NAME	PHONE	AREA OF KNOX/SURROUNDING	SOBER 1YR+?
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____