

**INMATE'S BRIDGE APPLICATION**

I am within six months of my release date. I am requesting an AA Contact who will provide a "bridge" for me To the AA community through transportation to meetings and introduction to other AA members in my area.

Mail to this address  
 Oregon Area 58 CFC, Bridge Program  
 c/o Portland Area Intergroup  
 1212 SE Division St  
 Portland, OR 97202

INMATE'S NAME	SEX	DOC NUMBER
	M F	
DOC MAILING ADDRESS		
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE
RELEASING TO: (Town or Area)		DATE OF RELEASE
ADDRESS AFTER RELEASE		
I would like to make a commitment to attend an AA meeting within 48 hours of my release. I understand that the AA Contact is not an AA Sponsor, even temporarily..		
SIGNATURE		

**TO THE INSIDE MEMBER:**

Alcoholics Anonymous has a transition program in this area. You may sign up to be matched with an AA volunteer in your home community upon release. The Volunteer has agreed to accompany you to 3 – 6 AA meetings, Introduce you to other members and help you get acquainted with the local fellowship . During this time, you will hear about Home Groups, Sponsorship, Service and the Steps. The contact with the Volunteer is designed to be temporary. They won't follow you around or control your activities, nor will they provide jobs, housing, food, clothing or any other such service. You will probably not get much in the way of recommendations other than: Go to Meetings, Don't Drink, Take the Steps, Read the Big Book and call your Sponsor! Experience has shown that attending meetings as soon after release as possible is one of the most effective tools in making a sober transition. Many of us have been where you are now and know what the AA program and the strength of the Fellowship can do for you, as it has done for us and countless others. Please take a moment to read and complete the Application for Inside AA Members and return it to the Bridge Volunteer Coordinator. Keep the rest of this pamphlet for future reference. Try and have this application submitted about 90 days prior to your release date. You should be contacted by mail by an AA Bridge Volunteer in the community where you will be living upon your release. If you don't hear from a Volunteer, write to the Bridge Coordinator. Provide The Bridge Coordinator with information on your release date, address and telephone number where you will be living and how the Volunteer can reach you to arrange to go to AA meetings.

It is hoped you will find this service helpful in your continued recovery.

**SUGGESTED READINGS:**(AA Literature)

- + Carrying the Message Into Correctional Facilities
- + Where Do I Go From Here?
- + AA in Prison: Inmate to Inmate
- + AA in Correctional Facilities:
  - It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell
- + Memo to an Inmate Who May be an Alcoholic

**OREGON AREA  
 AREA 58  
 CORRECTIONS  
 BRIDGE PROGRAM**



*An AA Service  
 Opportunity  
 Connecting Inside  
 Members to the  
 Community*

[www.aa-oregon.org](http://www.aa-oregon.org)

**TO THE OUTSIDE MEMBER:**

AA Bridge Program connects Inside Members with AA in their community upon release. You are asked to be the AA Bridge Volunteer. When a soon-to-be released Inside AA Member contacts us, we match them to an AA Bridge Volunteer in their community. We call you, get the okay, and then send the information along to you. You contact the Inside AA Member and arrange to take them to an AA meeting within 48 hours of their release. You are to take them to a minimum of 3 and a maximum of 6 meetings. You help them get acquainted, get phone numbers and perhaps locate a sponsor or a home group. Please note: It is NOT intended that you become their sponsor, even temporarily. It is best if that work is not used in any way to describe your service. Bridge Volunteers are "Bridges" to the local AA community. You introduce them to AA members so they have a base of members to call upon. Lastly, we suggest Bridge Volunteers be active in AA and have a minimum of one year of continuous sobriety. If you are willing to be the hand of AA when an Inside AA Member reaches out for help, complete the application and mail it. Keep the rest of this form as a reference.

**BRIDGE PROCEDURE:**

- Inmate's requirements. Inside AA members are eligible for this program if they have less than six months to serve and have a desire to stay sober.
- Inside AA Member fills in and mails the application to the WVI office, which coordinating all bridges.
- Bridge Coordinator notifies the Inside AA Member when the application is received and is being processed.
- The Bridge Coordinator matches the Inside AA Member with a Bridge Volunteer.
- CFC informs the Inside AA Member that a bridge has been established with a Bridge Volunteer.
- Bridge Volunteer writes the Inside AA Member in two weeks to confirm contact and a willingness to "Bridge".
  - If a Bridge Volunteer does not wish to use their address, they may use the address of the Bridge Central Office.
  - If a Bridge Volunteer has not contacted the Inside AA Member within two weeks, notify the Bridge Coordinator.
- Inside AA member will then inform the Bridge Volunteer of all pertinent information as to the date of release, local address, and telephone number.
- Bridge Volunteer will meet the released Inside AA Member at a time, date and place agreed upon, and to attend his/her first few local AA meetings.
- After 6 meetings, the Volunteer is asked to "Let Go and Let God", so they can act as a "Bridge" for the next Inside AA member.

**BRIDGE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Contact the Inside AA member by letter within two weeks of your notification by the Bridge Coordinator. Remain in written communication until date of release.
- Take the released Inside AA Member to an AA meeting within 48 hours of their return to the community.
- It is suggested that the first meeting with the AA member be viewed as a 12 Step Call and that you take another AA member with you. Use the same guidelines as you would when meeting a newcomer, although you are meeting a member that may have considerable long term sobriety.
- Review the Bridge Program with the AA member so there are no misunderstandings as to what this program does and does not offer. Use this pamphlet your reference.
- Remind the Member, the bridge is a temporary arrangement, and you are a temporary bridge to the local AA community.
- Remember, you have a commitment of taking the Member to 3 to 6 AA meetings. It is up to each of us to establish sponsorship relationships on our own.
- Be sure the Member has a meeting list, AA telephone numbers, AA literature and a Big Book.
- Encourage the Member to find a home group, attend AA meetings, get a sponsor and become involved in the Fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous.
- Share your experience, strength and hope as you would with anyone new to the program or the community.
- Upon completion of the responsibilities, contact the Bridge Coordinator and provide information on what worked.

**SUGGESTED: Guidelines for Bridge Volunteers**

DO take the Member to an AA meeting within 48 hours.  
 DO carry the AA message with your experience  
 DO take the Member to 3 – 6 AA meetings  
 DO provide AA meeting schedule & phone numbers  
 DO practice your recovery & solutions  
 DO discuss bridge questions or problems with a Sponsor  
 DON'T sponsor the Member  
 DON'T loan money, housing, food, car, or be a Taxi  
 DON'T be involved in reports to the Justice System  
 DON'T exceed the 6 meetings with the member  
 DON'T become emotionally involved  
 DON'T be responsible for Member's actions or attitudes

**CORRECTION'S BRIDGE VOLUNTEER'S APPLICATION**

NAME	SEX		
	M	F	
ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	
DAYTIME PHONE	NIGHTTIME PHONE	LOCATION	
HOME GROUP			
I have read and agree to follow the intent and guidelines of the AA Bridge Program as described in this pamphlet. I meet the minimum requirements to be an AA Contact for a Released Inmate.			
SIGNATURE			DATE

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