

## ADDENDUM

March 2022 from Sue Pérez Associate Director Group Services

*On behalf of the clearinghouse, the WSO would like to provide clarity as it relates to this discussion of changing any words in the Twelve Steps, Traditions or Concepts of Service used in Al-Anon and Alateen meetings and events:*

*Alcoholics Anonymous (A.A.) holds the copyright to the words found in the Twelve Steps of A.A. This includes any translation of those same Steps. Any recovery program that wishes to use and adapt the Twelve Steps of A.A. must request permission to do so from the A.A. GSO. The Twelve Steps are not part of the public domain.*

*Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters, Inc. has held the legal copyright to the Al-Anon and Alateen Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions and Concepts of Service since 1996.*

*Our World Service Conference, which is recognized as the senior conference by all other structures, has deemed it to be prudent to only consider changing these steps through the written consent of three-quarters of Al-Anon groups worldwide. Please see the Al-Anon World Service Conference Charter on page 224 of the 2018-2021 Al-Anon/Alateen Service Manual (P-24/27) version two (2). WSO encourages review of page 36 of the 2014 World Service Conference Summary (P-46) where the process is described to effect such a change.*

*Again, our members are free to interpret the Legacies according to their own perceptions. When in an Al-Anon meeting, our unity is preserved when the Legacies are read aloud as they appear in our Conference Approved Literature (CAL). It is not within the autonomy of the individual group to change the pronouns when reading the Legacies as this affects Al-Anon as a whole. Changing the wording of our Steps and Traditions is very similar to bringing outside literature into our meetings. The consistent reading of our Three Legacies as they are written protects Al-Anon's copyright and assures Al-Anon members that wherever we go throughout the world, Al-Anon's message of help and hope remains clear and consistent.*

*We hope this is helpful.*

*...from a former Trustee Dec 21, 2022:*

*We read the Suggested Al-Anon/Alateen Welcome found on page 11 of our Service Manual, but insert this paragraph between the fourth and fifth paragraphs:*

*Al-Anon is a spiritual fellowship, not a religious one. Members of any faith, or none at all, are welcome and we make it a point to avoid discussion of specific*

*beliefs. The Al-Anon program is based on the spiritual idea that we can depend on a 'Power greater than ourselves' for help in solving our problems and achieving peace of mind. We are free to define that power in our own terms, in our own way and in our own time. Even if the language of the 12 steps does not reflect this diversity to you, we want you to know that you are welcome.*

*I hope both responses are helpful and thank you again for giving me the opportunity to learn something new today.*