



Disruptive and Predatory Behavior



WORLD SERVICES



**This topic, at its heart, is about
our ability as a Fellowship to
carry the message —**

*if new members
do not feel safe,
they won't stay*

*if professionals hear
negative things
about NA, they will
stop referring
clients to us*

**and addicts who need us
may never find us.**

Atmosphere of Recovery

An atmosphere of recovery is about making sure everyone who needs NA feels safe and welcome.

Anonymity, sharing, listening, respect, no judgment, and safety.

What else characterizes an atmosphere of recovery?





Ideas to increase the atmosphere of recovery

- leading by example
- welcoming and paying attention to newcomers
- creating a safe meeting environment
- sharing in a way that members can identify
- mentoring trusted servants
- group unity

**What else
contributes
to an atmosphere
of recovery?**

**How do I
contribute?**

Negative Behaviors

We need to come to a common understanding of the problem before we can seek a solution.

One way to think about disruptive behavior generally is behavior that interferes with the peace, security, and integrity of a meeting and its members



Negative Behaviors

Predatory behavior happens when a member knowingly or unknowingly takes advantage of another member's vulnerability.

- Sometimes blatant, sometimes subtle
- Characterized by manipulation
- Sexual connotation or targets sexuality





Here are some examples of disruptive and predatory behaviors:

- **Bullying/picking on/harassing**
- **Threatening physical violence**
- **Racist words or actions**
- **Homophobic words or actions**
- **Theft**
- **Asking members for money**
- **Private messaging members (virtual)**
- **Distribution of non-approved literature**
- **Stalking**
- **Violating restraining orders**
- **Use phone to record during meeting**
- **Loud family members/pets (virtual)**
- **Disruptive children (in-person)**
- **Interrupting when member sharing**
- **Making unwanted sexual advances**

Positive Solutions

We should be clear to all addicts:
You are welcome.

Behavior that harms others or disrupts the atmosphere of recovery is not welcome.



*The
Group
Booklet*
reminds us

“Common sense, open minds, calm discussion, accurate information, mutual respect, and healthy personal recovery enable a group to deal effectively with almost anything that comes its way.”



Positive Solutions

The worst thing we can do for a newcomer is make NA feel like where they came from.

We need to do our best to protect our members, while respecting their right to make their own decisions.

- It can be a fine line between being protective and overbearing
- Am I the right person to offer help?





Below is a list of possible solutions:

- **Add a paragraph to the group format**
- **Approach new members and make sure they feel welcome**
- **Join another member(s) and pull aside the member exhibiting the behavior and try to talk to them**
- **If someone is violating a protective order, have a couple of people offer to go to another meeting with them**
- **Turn off camera/put a member in the waiting room (virtual)**
- **Discuss behavior in a group business meeting**
- **Chairperson/leader/group secretary can request a short break or ask group to join in a prayer or moment of silence**
- **Hold a recovery meeting focused on a discussion about atmosphere of recovery**
- **Discuss with other groups at a local service body meeting**
- **Approach member in a loving and caring way**
- **Temporarily suspend meeting**
- **Call law enforcement**

Let's hear back from our members.



Tell us what example(s) with the linked form or QR code

<https://forms.office.com/r/WuvKXAmpDz>

