

ACA Commitment to Addressing Predatory Behavior

ACA meetings have one primary purpose: to carry the message to adult children who still suffer. This group believes that allowing predatory behavior to occur in and around meetings creates a distraction from this purpose.

We come into the rooms of ACA to find healing from childhood experiences of being victimized. As the Other Laundry List states, some of us may act out this trauma by becoming victimizers ourselves. As a result of childhood dysfunction, perpetrators learn early to detect and take advantage of those who have not yet learned to trust their instincts or set healthy boundaries. We call this predatory behavior.

By maintaining a proactive approach to addressing this dynamic, our meeting is less vulnerable to recreating dysfunction and secrecy. As we practice healthier connections in ACA, we monitor our motivation to connect with the newcomer or other members. We strive to respect one another's boundaries. We avoid using the fellowship to solicit emotional gratification, personal or financial favors, or romance and sexual encounters. We refrain from taking advantage of perceived authority, such as service roles or long time membership within the fellowship, to assert control over other members.

If you feel uncomfortable about the approach from a member, before, during or after the meeting, we suggest you speak up! The 12th Tradition of Anonymity is not a shield from openly addressing inappropriate behavior. Rather, as the ACA Solution suggests, the healing begins when we risk moving out of isolation. We urge you to speak to one or more trusted members or bring up your concern at a group conscience meeting. We believe that openly addressing predatory behavior is the responsibility of all ACA members and every group.

We aren't perfect. If you don't feel the group is taking your concern seriously, please seek support outside the meeting, which may include trying other meetings. Additional resources are listed on the back of this card.

Side Two

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By placing this card in a prominent place during our meeting, we are making the commitment to openly address predatory behavior should it arise.

Meditation on Tradition 9

Higher Power. May I remember that ACA and its meeting and service structure are different from my family of origin. May I be patient and avoid reaching for the easiest way out when I am confronted with a difficult situation. Help me and my ACA group ask for help in keeping our meeting safe and recovery-oriented. Also help us celebrate the things that we do right.

Additional Resources:

APB repository page:

<https://acawso.org/category/apb/>

Addressing Inappropriate Behaviors:

<https://acawso.org/2018/07/27/addressing-inappropriate-behaviors/>

Special Edition ComLine on Addressing Predatory Behavior:

https://adultchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Predatory_Behavior_ComLine_Final.pdf