

203	Yes	81%	Proposal 2021 – 2	2
49	No	19%		
10	No Opinion			
Submitted by MA063				

Issue: We propose that Tony A's Twelve Steps be added to all published ACA Literature as "Founder Tony A's Steps". We suggest this be done by:

- Including them in future ACA publications and revisions.
- Making them prominent on ACA websites and provide a PDF that can be printed by meetings or used online at virtual meetings.

Producing a pamphlet or a laminated bookmark with these steps, integrated with the traits, solution, or promises.

Background: Tony A's wording for the Twelve Steps is central to his development of ACA, as discussed in the Early History. This version is found in Tony A's collectible book, "The Laundry List", which currently sells used for \$149.99 -- as such, this version is not accessible. Many meetings use Tony A's steps, either when members choose to read them, or explicitly as part of the meeting script. The Adult Children website says that ACA WSO supports such autonomous use of Tony A's steps. Our group conscience finds that Tony A's version lovingly expresses the re-parenting towards self-love that is at the core of the ACA Twelve Steps. A curated version should be readily available for any member or any group that wants to use it.

The difficulty of finding an official version is a disruptive barrier, particularly for new members and at online meetings. Tony A's steps are not available in the literature section of ACA websites, and internet searches find numerous, slightly different versions, some with ad hoc context and interpretation. Published as a peer with the Laundry List, the official version of Tony A's steps will make it easy for groups and scripts to "be on the same page" regarding its wording and its place in the ACA canon.

We believe that Fair Use doctrine permits ACA WSO to publish Tony A's Twelve Steps for teaching, comment, criticism, and research without formal permission from the copyright holder.

Resources/Implementation: Two members of our group are eager to help with any writing or literature work required to implement the proposal. One is a published recovery author (McGraw-Hill, Columbia University Teachers College Press).

- We would help oversee the production of the proposed PDFs.
- Production could include a trifold or pamphlet of these steps, perhaps integrated with the traits, problem, solution, and promises.
- We would start by creating a laminated bookmark with Tony A's twelve steps in an attractive style suitable as a small gift.
- Such a low-cost bookmark would be sold in packets of e.g., twelve, and one bookmark could be included free in every shipment of any ACA book.

Two other members have strong administrative skills and would be available to help shepherd this proposal to fruition.

WSO Analysis: The Board and the Literature Committee are arranging for a legal review of whether ACA WSO has the right to publish Tony A.'s 12 Steps in their entirety. More information on that research will be shared before the 2022 Annual Business Conference.

Comments: (Those greater than 50 words, per Ballot instructions, were truncated. Comments only referring to the group's voting results were removed.)

- a) We struggled understanding this proposal due to the length of the proposal. Keeping proposals under 500 words, including the WSO response and written more concisely would be preferred.
- b) Offer to pay a royalty to the copyright holders which is accord with Tradition Eight original version. ACA's understanding of special workers is historically wrong.
- c) A fellow traveler with legal expertise shared that the fair use doctrine does not make Tony A's literature usable in its entirety and the fair use doctrine only applies to the US. Tony A's book is available on Kindle for \$10; it's not necessary to spend hundreds of dollars.
- d) We would like to see "dysfunctional families" along with "alcoholism" in step 1.
- e) Verify Copyright issue first
- f) Once the legal issues are dealt with
- g) The group feels that there are many of us ACA's who would like access to the Tony A material.
- h) premature unless and until copyright is released.
- i) Tony's steps are pivotal and are needed. Tony stated the AA style of the 12 steps are Wrong and Harmful for adult children. How can we square that the Founder says what we have printed on out text is HARMFUL for us. How can you do that!!
- j) Tony A.'s Steps are made for ACA members. I felt amesed, when I read them, because it touched my heart so well.
- k) Yes if there is a legal right to do this
- l) The group would like to know if Tony A.'s family has released the rights to this?
- m) Please get a legal opinion
- n) Prefer that if we adopt new steps they go through the literature process. Concern regarding copyright issues.
- o) Continuing copyright issue
- p) Our group has a second mtg on Friday's, using his steps
- q) We believe that this should be discussed. That does not indicate our support for the approval of the proposal.
- r) Thank you for your consideration to include additional resources to support the recovery process.
- s) This proposal has merit, but it sounds like WSO is already working on it. Thanks!
- t) Based on lifted copyright
- u) Many of our group members use Tony A's 12 Steps when it is time to read the steps in our meeting. This one is near and dear to our group.
- v) Our group reads Tony A's steps at our meeting but thought this proposal shed Tony A. in too prodigal of a light
- w) Absolutely essential. The Tony A steps are an essential part of recovery and should be brought fully into the light.
- x) we read the Tony A. steps weekly
- y) Our meeting uses the Tony A steps
- Z) There is concern from our POC group about the focus and importance placed on the founder, Tony A.