

# Corrections Correspondence Service (CCS)- A special kind of A.A. service.

Through the Corrections Correspondence Service the General Service Office will connect an inmate with an outside A.A. member so they may share their experience, strength and hope with each other concerning sobriety and recovery in A.A. through the mail. As is suggested for sponsorship, men are put in touch with men, and women with women. The outside member will be connected with an inmate in another region of the country.

## TCF Prison Correspondence Guidelines

Welcome to what has been described as one of the most rewarding forms of Twelfth Step work. In addition to observing the rules in Correctional Facilities regarding mail and correspondence, the following are suggested guidelines drawn from shared experience to help you when writing to potential A.A. members in correctional facilities: These guidelines are devised to ensure that the Inmate receives quality content and that your safety is assured. It is expected that you will have completed your Twelve Steps, have a sponsor and home group, and a grasp of the Twelve Traditions; especially Tradition Five

1. We introduce ourselves by qualifying briefly in our opening letter.
2. We try to let the inmate know that writing, like all forms of sharing, helps us as much as it helps him or her.
3. We let the inmate know that he or she is not alone.
4. We share our experience strength and hope only.
5. We refrain from using our personal contact details. Your home group, DC or Intergroup PO Box address would be advisable.
6. We have found it best for all concerned if no emotional or romantic involvements develop.
7. If there is a desire to send a gift for a special occasion, we make it an A.A. book, A.A. literature, or Mainstay. (Before sending literature, see if the facility will allow it.)
8. In the spirit of the Twelfth Tradition we respect the anonymity of our correspondents.
9. We encourage the inmate to attend A.A. meetings if possible during their confinement.
10. We encourage the inmate to connect with AA as soon as they leave confinement.
11. We encourage the inmate to notify the Correctional Correspondence Coordinator prior to their release so that a pre-release contact from their home community can be set up.
12. We abide by all our Twelve Traditions.
13. We remain committed to answering all letters.
14. We will try to match up correspondents from different provinces.