

THE PIPELINE

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Step 6:

Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

WILLINGNESS IS THE KEY TO REMOVING OUR DEFECTS OF CHARACTER

We have emphasized willingness as being indispensable. Are we now ready to let God remove from us all the things which we have admitted are objectionable? Can He now take them all, every one? If we cling to something we will not let go, we ask God to help us be willing. [Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 76]



At this stage of the process, it's important to refer back to our 3rd step and realize that just because we are entirely ready for something doesn't mean that God is going to immediately cater to us. The key is in the willingness. Entirely + ready = WILLINGNESS!

Step 6 is about preparing ourselves

for a lifetime journey of growing into the image of our creator. Many have thought that our character defects would be lifted from us just as our obsession to use was. My experience is that this is an ongoing process of being able to identify and accept my character defects and continue to be willing to have God remove them from me. As my spirituality grows I become closer to Him and more and more my defects fade.

As we continue our journey of self-discovery and begin to peel back the layers that many of us

have spent years building up, we start to see that some of these defects of character are rooted very deeply in us. The nurtured seed of willingness grows into the flower of faith. We need to have faith that God will remove these defects of character in His time, when He is ready. As long as we remain ready and willing and can identify them when they crop up, God will remove them if we just ask.

THE SASSY SPONSOR

Dear Sassy,

I miss in-person meetings. I'm having a hard time getting to Zoom meetings in general. Any advice? Any other tips for maintaining my sobriety during this crazy time?

Sincerely, Corn Teen

Dear Corn Teen,

Navigating such a tumultuous time has been tough for all of us. Many people are relapsing and I have lost a couple of people to the disease during this Covid-19 lock down. It has taught me the importance of diversifying my program to meet the everyday needs of the sober addict. First, North Scottsdale Fellowship Club has had in person meetings this whole time. They social distance and abide by state guidelines and it has allowed them to provide in-person meetings throughout the day. It might be a bit of a drive for you but we must be willing to go to any lengths and this kind of contact is necessary for some to stay sober.

Secondly, and sometimes I prefer this option to zoom meetings, there are speaker tapes. You can find, not only online but also through different apps for your phone, speakers from all over the world that have recorded their "Experience, Strength and Hope" for all of us to listen to. So, if you have a smartphone, you can listen to the different speakers whenever you'd like... out on a walk with your dog, at home

before you go to bed, or in the middle of the day between routines Anytime is a good time to get in to listen to a speaker tape, and when you can't get to a meeting, it is the next best choice. There are hundreds, you'll have a new speaker for every occasion.

Next, we have phone meetings... These are not a first choice but there are more of these than there are of Zoom meetings. You can dial in from anywhere in the world. For some, being on the phone is an easier option than sitting and staring at a screen listening. You can put in your earbuds, lay back and listen for an hour. They go on all times of the day. There is plenty of information about them on the various recovery websites all over the internet. Don't be shy; try one out, you may like it.

The most important thing you can do is stay connected. Our disease wants us dead but it will settle for us being isolated. We have to reach out as much and as often as we can to our community members who are going through the same things we are during this time. We shouldn't let go of the tools we have left over in all of this, they are more than enough to get by. Imagine a time when we didn't have such luxuries, we'd be left in our disease. This would surely mean doom for many of us...but today it doesn't have to.

Best of luck,

Sassy

ENDORSE FINANCE LEND: WORSHIP OF OTHER THINGS DIVERTS US

Tradition 6: “A CMA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the CMA name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, or prestige divert us from our primary purpose.”

When we work the steps with a sponsor, one tool for learning exactly what the Big Book says is a dictionary. Looking up words we don't understand reveals their meaning.

The Traditions aren't covered by the Big Book itself, so they aren't always studied with the same diligence. But it can really help with Tradition 6.

It can seem hard to discern whether a particular situation even fits this Tradition, and if so whether it fails the test. It's really easy if we break it down.

The second half of the sentence tells why we don't do the things in the first half. We don't want those problems to divert us from reaching the addict who suffers. So we check the first half to see.

I think of them as a checklist, asking one at a time: Are we endorsing this facility or outside enterprise? Are we financing them? And are we lending our name to them?

Let's try an example: It is learned that the mayor is a recovered addict, so a home-group invites her to share at their next speaker meeting.

Can they do this?

1. “Endorse: Declare public approval or support.”
Is the group endorsing the mayor?
2. “Finance: Provide money for.”
Is the group financing the mayor?
3. “Lend: Make available to use for a period of time.”
Is the group lending their name to the mayor?

If everybody involved can respect Tradition 6 and the answer is no to all three, it's all good!!

Bonus: this example shows us how anonymity can be the spiritual foundation that makes unity possible. Isn't principle before personality a beautiful thing.

CMA Statements On COVID-19

Dear members and fellows of Crystal Meth Anonymous,

On March 14, 2020, CMA put forth a Statement on COVID-19 with suggestions for in-person meetings and contingency plans if in-person meetings were not possible due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Three weeks later, the majority of CMA groups have moved to online or telephone meetings. Groups across the globe have registered their virtual meetings in the CMA Online Meeting Directory, and this list grows every day. Groups have also turned to cashless systems for the Seventh Tradition. It's very clear that groups are indeed spiritual entities regardless of the place at which they gather, and we're inspired by their commitment and resourcefulness in creating safe, virtual spaces for crystal meth addicts to meet anywhere and carry the message of recovery. The happy consequences are that members can attend virtual meetings around the world, see old friends, make new connections, and recognize that we're here for each other. Remarkably, we are now reaching addicts in places where there's never been a physical CMA meeting.

We've been receiving inquiries on how to start online meetings, choose online platforms, develop new meeting formats, and find ways to practice the Seventh Tradition virtually. While we do not wish to tell any group what to do or not do, we have collected some experience from the Fellowship in regards to this matter. We are working on guidelines and resources for CMA

groups on using digital platforms during the coronavirus pandemic. We'll provide links to the guidelines when they've been created.

Some CMA groups are still having in-person meetings and we continue our recommendations to avoid hand-shaking and hugging, discontinuing food or beverage service, and finding alternatives to "circling up" and passing baskets or coins from person to person. In addition, groups might find it helpful to check with national and local authorities and health agencies regarding any limitations to the number of people permitted to assemble and recommended best practices.

One last important thing to note is that Crystal Meth Anonymous does not endorse specific virtual options, digital platforms or public health agencies, but we acknowledge our cooperation in terms of the experience of the Fellowship and the desire to fulfill our primary purpose of carrying the message to the addict who still suffers.

We hope this information will be useful. We will continue to monitor this rapidly-changing environment and provide additional updates as needed. As always, take good care of yourselves, and each other.

The CMA General Service Committee