

Do's and Don'ts for H&I Work in Psychiatric Hospitals and Forensic Units

Psychiatric & Forensic Unit Rules

- Do Attempt to get all agreements in writing
- Do Clarify the rules with whomever you bring into the unit
- Do Adhere to the security regulations at all times
- Do Arrive early to satisfy security requirements
- Do Keep staff informed of your whereabouts
- Do Obey the dress code, exercise common sense

Panel Leaders and Members

- Do Screen all panel members, speakers, and chairperson(s)
- Do Always clear a member who is on parole/probation with the unit and parole/probation officer
- 48 Psychiatric and Forensic
- Do Adhere to clean time requirements of the psychiatric/forensic unit and of the H&I committee
- Do Ensure that a clear NA message of recovery is carried by all panel members
- Do Choose panel members and speakers according to H&I guidelines

Literature

- Do Provide NA literature for psychiatric/forensic unit meetings
- Do Make directories of outside meetings available to the residents
- Do Use NA literature recommended for H&I work and stamp all literature with the local phonenumber numbers
- Do Provide facilities with literature order forms and encourage them to supply their own NA literature

Psychiatric/Forensic Unit Meetings

- Do Start and end on time
- Do Clearly state that Narcotics Anonymous is separate from the psychiatric/forensic unit and from other fellowships
- Do Emphasize that NA recovery is available to all addicts regardless of drug(s) used

Resident Meeting Participation

- Do Emphasize the importance of attending a Narcotics Anonymous meeting the first day out of the unit

Panel Leaders and Members

- Don't Allow a member who has outstanding warrants to participate in a psychiatric/forensic unit meeting
- Don't Bring any contraband items or weapons into the unit
- Don't Take messages and carry letters in or out of the psychiatric/forensic unit
- Don't Show favoritism to any inmates
- Don't Bring an NA member who has friends and/or family in the psychiatric/forensic unit
- Don't Wear flashy jewelry and don't carry excessive cash
- Don't Use excessive profanity

Don't Attend H&I facilities alone

Unit Guidelines

Don't Debate which drugs are acceptable; remember we have no opinion on outside issues

Don't Debate any issues involving the psychiatric/forensic unit's rules, regulations, methods, or other fellowships with residents and staff
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Don't Discuss conditions within the psychiatric/forensic unit

Don't Discuss psychiatric/forensic unit staff members with residents

Don't Discuss resident(s) with psychiatric/forensic unit staff members

Don't Sponsor resident(s) in the psychiatric/forensic unit that you are attending as an H&I member

Don't Accept money or gifts from, or give money or gifts to any inmate

Meeting Guidelines

Don't Read too many literature selections at the beginning of the meeting.
Keep it short and simple to keep their attention.

Don't Give anyone within the psychiatric/forensic unit your address or telephone number

Don't Provide anyone with another NA member's address or telephone number

Don't Bring in anyone who is not supposed to be there (sponsee(s), friends, guests)

Don't Ask what type of crime a resident has been convicted of, or discuss guilt or innocence

Don't Break another person's anonymity

Don't Emphasize 'using days' while sharing an NA message of recovery