

## Anonymity and the Law

A 'Special Note' on Anonymity was added to the chapter on 'Anonymity' - P41 of the AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2018-2021 and WSO has strongly recommended that it should be included in every AI-Anon Group's meeting format.

WSO has produced this because of some members who reported having had occasions where individuals had shared in meetings concerning incidents of a criminal nature and they had not known what their legal responsibilities were, especially in respect of AI-Anon's spiritual principle of anonymity.

A motion was passed at SA Conference 2018 in regard to this Special Note:

**Motion 07 / 2018 Conference 2018 accepts that the AI-Anon/Alateen Service Manual 2018 - 2021 special note p.41 re Anonymity and the Law must be included in the AI-Anon meeting format and read out at all meetings.**

The section on Anonymity (P 41) states:-

'Tradition Twelve

Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles above personalities.

The Principle of anonymity is essential during meetings to ensure the confidentiality of who is present and what is shared at the meetings.'....

**'The Special Note' on Anonymity reads:**

**'Anonymity is a spiritual principle and cannot be used as a legal basis to shield criminal behaviour, past or current. It is wise to remember that AI-Anon and Alateen meetings are not above the law. Members need to exercise care in sharing information that could require reporting to local, state, provincial, or national authorities.'**

Each group is free to choose where they would like to place this Special Note in their Meeting Format, a suggestion would be after the paragraph regarding Anonymity which begins 'Anonymity is an important principle of the AI-Anon programme' or just before the sharing begins.