

October 16, 1968

Top O'Texas Al-Anon Group  
[REDACTED]

Attention John H., Group Representative

Dear John,

Sorry not to have answered your letter before this. We appreciate your concern for Al-Anon.

I hope by now, however, that you have re-read the paragraph in the Aug.-Sept. issue of Box 4-5-9 that so disturbed you. A casual reading could give the impression that Al-Anon is just another "friend of AA". But note carefully the sentences in the middle of the piece.

AA has always been generous to Al-Anon. It invites us to hold meetings at their conventions and often pays our expenses for speakers and facilities.

As you know Al-Anon's Steps and Traditions are slightly modified copies of those of AA. From the earliest days AA has given us permission to use the very wording of their principles and has encouraged the development of Al-Anon in every way. (This does not mean, to be sure, that every AA member even now is in favor of Al-Anon.)

Al-Anon members in turn assist AAs by changing attitudes and improving the atmosphere in their homes. The two fellowships walk hand in hand. It is a most unique relationship.

However, for organizational and psychological reasons AA and Al-Anon have to be two separate entities. In 1966 the world offices of both fellowships held a joint meeting to discuss forming guidelines for group separation. The enclosed sheet is the result and is self-explanatory.

The questionable sentence in "Box 4-5-9" means that only AAs should speak at closed AA meetings. It was meant for clarification, not as a slap at Al-Anon.

I hope this explanation lifts the cloud from your mind and that you will have reason to believe, as we have, that AAs and Al-Anons will continue to draw closer as their mutual need of each other becomes apparent to more and more individuals.

All good wishes,

Sincerely,

Lois B. W[REDACTED], Policy Committee

P.S. Just a word about Al-Anon helping remodel the AA clubhouse. Every group is of course autonomous but it has been often observed that Al-Anon groups which give too much time to such activities run the chance of diverting from their primary purpose. You might find the pamphlet, "AA Tradition and How It Developed" by Bill W. useful.