WSO

Global Electronic Alateen Safety Minimums

Background

The WSC Structure has defined minimum requirements that would apply to all Alateen groups meeting electronically (Electronic Alateen Groups) in its structure (WSC Structure Electronic Alateen Safety and Behavioral Requirements or WSC EASBR). The WSC EASBR meets the legal requirements of the United States (including Puerto Rico), Canada, and Bermuda.

In consideration of international structure autonomy inherent in Tradition Four and the authority granted to the WSC as the senior conference for Al-Anon Family Groups, these Global Electronic Alateen Safety Minimums (Global EASM) have been defined.

Purpose

These minimums provide the basis upon which structures registered as a legal entity shall create their own electronic Alateen safety and behavioral requirements and process of certification in order to register Electronic Alateen Groups.

In keeping with the 2003 Alateen Motion from the Board of Trustees for the World Service Conference (WSC) Structure and current Alateen Policy as described in the Digest of Al-Anon and Alateen Policies, the guidance set out herein is intended to:

- Establish minimum requirements and a process of certification for working with minors aged 13 and above (Alateens) meeting electronically or virtually;
- Protect Al-Anon Family Groups Headquarters, Inc.'s name in keeping with Warranty Four;
- Encourage thoughtful, diligent protection of the safety of Alateens attending Electronic Alateen Groups, including adherence to international structures' applicable laws;
- Recognize Electronic Alateen Groups as Al-Anon Family Groups, connected to their service structure with voice and vote; and
- Affirm that Al-Anon is not above the law: each structure is responsible for knowing its country's applicable laws and applying the most conservative rule in the interest of protecting Alateens' safety on electronic platforms. In the event of any conflict between these minimums, the structure's requirements, and the structure country's law, the country's law governs.

Global Electronic Alateen Safety Minimums (Global EASM)

A structure's electronic Alateen safety and behavioral requirements shall include the following:

- Electronic Alateen Groups adhere to the strictest legal safety requirements applicable to that structure for interacting with minors using an electronic platform.
- Alateens attending Electronic Alateen Groups are in the presence of an adequate number of adults, which shall be no fewer than two, whose structure has certified them to be safe in compliance with the structure's Alateen safety and behavioral requirements (for example, an Al-Anon Member Involved in Alateen Service [AMIAS] or AMIAS-E) and the country's applicable legal standard(s).

WSO

- In accordance with applicable local law and/or the structure's safety requirements regarding the ratio of Alateens to adults or other rules regarding interaction, the structure shall determine 1) who meets with the Alateen to validate their age and obtain legally necessary registration details and 2) whether that meeting will take place in person or virtually. The meeting shall take place prior to the Alateen's attendance at their first meeting.
- Electronic Alateen Groups securely and confidentially maintain records of Alateens who are eligible to attend their meetings, including their ages and legally necessary registration details.
- An "Alateen" is a minor aged 13 or above unless the structure or the structure country's laws establish a higher age. The more conservative rule is to be followed. For example, if the structure's country's laws define a minor as aged 15 or above, then a 13 or 14-year-old would not be eligible to participate in Electronic Alateen Groups. If the structure country's laws define a minor as aged 12, the 12-year-old would not be eligible to participate in an Electronic Alateen Group, because the Global EASM establishes the minimum as 13 years of age.
- The structure designates which committee or individuals will be responsible for ensuring that the applicable age limits are followed.
- The structure shall establish procedures for maintaining and ensuring the security of the electronic platform used for Electronic Alateen Groups, which includes defining which trusted servants may be given access to the group's meeting link. The structure's procedures need to also address protecting the anonymity of Alateens and Al-Anon members and ensuring details, such as the meeting links, are not displayed publicly in any form.