

Guidance for Group Secretaries facing disruption in their meeting

The secretary is the figurehead of the group and responsible for the smooth running of the meeting; ensuring an atmosphere of recovery is maintained. This document is intended to support secretaries to manage the group, in case of rogue sharing or disruptions to the meetings.

Our guiding principles in Tradition One and Tradition Five tell us that the common welfare of the group has to come before the individual. The meeting cannot revolve around one person; there is often more than one newcomer in each meeting wanting to hear the solution.

Whilst the below give some tips for how to deal with disruptions in the meeting, we feel that secretaries ought not worry about the odd reference to gambling or swearing - etc. We cannot stop people sharing just because we disagree with what they say or if they sound unwell. We are not 'well people anonymous!' We have found that these situations seldom arise - though you may find it helpful to be prepared.

PLEASE THINK CAREFULLY BEFORE ANY INTERVENTION

Sharing too long (typically over 4 mins, if the sharer shows no sign of stopping after being shown the card):

Thank you for sharing. Due to the size of the meeting, please could you give others a chance to share.

Sharer is overly upset or tearful:

Thank you for sharing. We suggest that current issues, or upset is shared privately with a sponsor or another DAA member. Please speak to someone after the meeting.

Someone sharing offensively (any language that is obscene, racist, sexist, transphobic, personal or threatening):

I'm afraid your sharing is offensive, and for the safety of the group, I must ask you to please stop now.

Prolonged discussion about problems other than drug addiction ie gambling, sex, blaming others, etc.

Thank you for sharing, but our Fifth Tradition states we are here only to share our experience, strength and hope about recovery from drug addiction. I shall have to ask you to stop sharing.

Someone who has been using:

Thank you for sharing, but our Fifth Tradition states we are here only to share our experience, strength and hope about recovery from drug addiction. We suggest that you listen to the meeting, and speak to someone after.

Someone other than the GSR trying to make DAA announcements:

It is the conscious of this group that all DAA announcements are made through the GSR.

If a member refuses to stop sharing and is boisterous enough to disrupt the meeting they may be asked to leave.

If after warnings they refuse to stop and are insistent on disrupting the meeting, call the Police and have the member removed.

If appropriate, inform the person they will be made welcome at the next meeting.

IF YOU ARE UNCLEAR ABOUT ANYTHING PLEASE SPEAK TO THE GSR.
