

COMMENTARIES ON THE TWELVE TRADITIONS OF SCA

Tradition 6:

“An SCA group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the SCA name to any outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property and prestige divert us from our primary purpose.”

If an SCA group were to affiliate with related facilities, we would mix our message of recovery with that enterprise’s ideology or mission. This could create conflict and dissension among the membership, divert time and energy away from helping the newcomer, and distract us from our primary purpose of carrying the message of our spiritual solution to other sexual compulsives.

An SCA group’s use of routine commercial services, such as banking or printing services, does not constitute an endorsement of a service or a particular vendor, and SCA may use such services to assist its work in carrying its message.

It is often difficult to determine where cooperation with outside enterprises ends and endorsement begins. This is probably best determined on a case by case basis through the group conscience. For instance, many SCA intergroups invite outside speakers to events. If handled correctly, this can be a humble admission that we do not have all the answers to the problem of sexual compulsion, and that we remain open, as a fellowship, to listening to new ideas.

Several guidelines can be offered for cooperation with outside enterprises. Care should be taken to state explicitly to the enterprise and to the intended audience that such cooperation does not constitute an endorsement. Other suggestions are to monitor publicity around the cooperation and to ensure that we enter into no permanent relationships with outside entities.

SCA also has a long history of cooperation with other Twelve Step fellowships that carry the message of recovery to the sexual compulsive who still suffers. For example, SCA intergroups may cooperate with other fellowships’ intergroups in producing common meeting lists, thus carrying the SCA message of hope even further. As part of the same spiritual family, SCA also cooperates as may be appropriate with other Twelve Step fellowships that address areas other than sexual recovery.

Cooperation with outside enterprises should be reviewed on a regular basis. The following questions might be asked: has the outside enterprise changed its focus or methods since we began cooperating with it? Has it gotten into controversies, which might damage SCA’s reputation? Has the enterprise publicly misrepresented its relationship to SCA? Has the cooperation in fact been beneficial to our fellowship?

We should also be on the lookout that our motives do not revolve around "money, property and prestige." Acting on such motives, grounded in fear and pride, is not conducive in the long run to the spiritual recovery of SCA members. In all our actions, we are careful not to act when motivated by fear and pride, making sure that all our decisions are conducive to the spiritual recovery of SCA members.

(Extract from "The Twelve Traditions of Sexual Compulsives Anonymous" © SCA-ISO)