

COMMENTARIES ON THE TWELVE TRADITIONS OF SCA

Tradition 8:

“Sexual Compulsives Anonymous should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.”

The SCA Statement of Purpose sets out that “Sexual Compulsives Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other, that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from sexual compulsion.” We are a spiritual recovery program, not a commercial enterprise or business. As such, our members are not professionals, but individuals with the same problem helping each other to work the SCA Program on a voluntary basis. We carry the message of a spiritual awakening and a spiritual solution to each other, and others like us, free of charge, based on our experiences within SCA, and Twelve Step recovery.

Tradition Eight means that SCA’s sponsorship and the rotating positions in the SCA service structures are not paid, or professional positions. Such positions do not require special education or highly specialized skills. Anyone who meets the requirements set by group conscience can hold these positions. Holding temporary offices does not elevate individuals to a special “professional” class within SCA.

Sponsorship is a tool of the Program, and it is not a professional relationship. We do not charge someone to sponsor them, nor do we pay someone to be our sponsor.

Sexual Compulsives Anonymous, although relying on volunteers for much of its service work, can employ special workers. It can do this when particular knowledge or skills are required, or when no volunteers exist to do work that is not covered by the rotating service structure. For instance, a group might pay a lawyer to look into insurance issues, an intergroup might employ an answering service, or ISO might hire a computer consultant or a translator. If members are asked to perform special jobs in SCA, it is permitted to pay them as we would non-members.

Some members of SCA come from or have gone into professional fields. These fields draw on knowledge from sources outside our program. To maintain clear boundaries, it is probably best for such individuals, especially in the areas of therapy, medicine and the law, if they wish to give professional advice to SCA members, to do so only within the confines of a professional consultation.

As SCA depends upon the rotation of volunteer service of its members to carry its message, when one’s term of service is complete, every effort is made to train the person following in the position. Service positions may evolve over time, but we seek to ensure that transitions are as seamless as feasible. In this way, SCA is not disrupted in carrying its message to the sexual compulsive who still suffers.

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