

Understanding Bridging the Gap (BTG)

Dear Treatment Representative or Alternate,

As your Homegroup's Treatment Representative or Alternate, you are their leader. It is imperative that you understand this **time-sensitive**, temporary contact program. This includes introducing and explaining it to the clients/patients of the facility you are visiting, collecting any forms filled out by those folks and **immediately** getting these forms to our BTG Representatives for pairing with members of Alcoholics Anonymous locally in District 5—*or anywhere in the United States or Canada.*

Simply, your role is ensure that clients/patients don't slip through the "gap" that this program is intended to seal. This "gap" is the time where there is a high-likelihood of relapse, specifically the time between being released from a treatment facility and getting to a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous in the community.

Experience shows the program works best when we:

DO

- 1) Familiarize ourselves with pamphlet #F-183: "A.A. Temporary Contact/Bridging The Gap Request, Connecting Inside A.A. Members To The Outside A.A. Community." Introduce and explain the program to the clients/patients and tell them you will offer the form to them at the end of the meeting. You may read directly from the pamphlet, if you like. Click on the link below to see the pamphlet:
https://aa.org/assets/en_US/f-183_bridgingthegap>Contact Inside.pdf
- 2) Have clients/patients fill them out in your presence and verify that the information is complete and readable
- 3) Collect them personally for **immediate** emailing to our BTG Representatives
- 4) Take a readable picture with your cellphone and email it to
treatment@savannahaa.com
- 5) **Follow up that email with a text alerting our BTG Representatives** (male, female or both, as applicable) that they should be looking for your email

Experience also shows the program works best when we:

DON'T

- 1) Leave them scattered about for clients/patients to pick up at their leisure
- 2) Accept forms without verifying that their information is complete and readable
- 3) Allow clients/patients to complete them at another time **OR** allow them to be given to facility staff. This is our responsibility.
- 4) Hold on to the form hoping to find time to send it tomorrow
- 5) Assume that our BTG Representatives are checking the treatment@savannaha.com email box frequently

As you can see, you play a vital role in this process. Thank you for your service!

Your District 5 Treatment Committee

Bridging the Gap Male and Female Representative contact information can be found by consulting our Treatment Committee Twelfth Step List that is emailed out monthly after our committee meeting.

PS: You can find the form for members of your Homegroup to sign up as BTG volunteers at <https://150.e80.myftpupload.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Bridging-The-Gap-Homegroup-signup-form-District-5.pdf>

Updated 6/23/2020