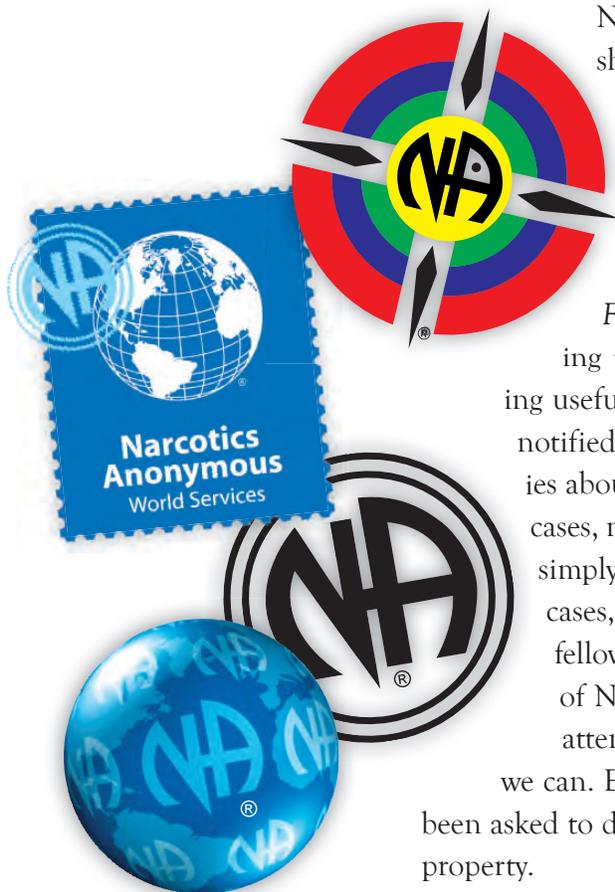


# Our Fellowship's Literature and Trademarks

Since 1993, NA World Services has been charged by the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous with sole responsibility for publishing Fellowship-approved literature and protecting NA copyrights and trademarks. The rights and responsibilities of this agreement are outlined by the *Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust*, and the guidelines found within it are also spelled out in simpler terms in the *NA Intellectual Property Bulletins*:

- *FIPT Bulletin #1: Internal Use of NA Intellectual Property*
- *FIPT Bulletin #2: Individual NA Member Use of Narcotics Anonymous Trademarks*
- *FIPT Bulletin #4: Reprinting NA Fellowship-approved Literature*

NA literature and logos belong to the NA Fellowship, and through the *FIPT*, the fellowship has made it a duty of *NAWS* to protect these trademarks and copyrights from intended or unintended misuse and abuse. It is important to keep in mind that concerns about NA copyrights and trademarks are not about money or control. The goal of the *FIPT* is to strike the proper balance between protecting the fellowship's property and the goal of providing useful resources and services to the fellowship. We are notified regularly by members, groups, and service bodies about infringements of fellowship copyrights. In some cases, members (and nonmembers) violate NA copyrights simply because they don't know any better. In other cases, people may not be happy with the decisions of the fellowship as a whole or may want to profit from misuse of NA property. When such issues are brought to our attention, we strive to resolve the matter as peaceably as we can. Every NA member can help us do the job we have been asked to do by not supporting any activities that misuse NA property.





Protecting the fellowship's trademarks is often more challenging because misuse is difficult for our members to identify, and because NA members love NA memorabilia! We have tried to learn from some of AA's experiences in no longer owning their triangle logo by ensuring that the NA name, logos, and service symbol continue to belong to, and their use is controlled by, the NA Fellowship. We have given broad parameters for any registered area or region to use the fellowship's trademarks, and have granted licenses to vendors. We do this because trademark law requires that we use the logo in all classes of trademark registrations or lose our ownership. By licensing a vendor to produce NA jewelry, for example, we retain control and ownership of the fellowship's trademarks for jewelry that we do not directly produce. Every member can help here by ensuring that merchandise purchased is produced by a registered service committee or a licensed vendor. It is also important to take care not to infringe on others' trademarks, for example, Harley Davidson logos and DC Comics' Superman or Batman logos.

As we reported last year, we must balance our desire to make literature available online with the need for a level of security in these electronic versions that is sufficient to prevent copyright infringement. We still have informational pamphlets available online in 42 languages, but we have removed the PDF versions of the Sixth Edition Basic Text, *Narcotics Anonymous*, and *It Works: How and Why* because we were not able to adequately protect the copyrights on those PDFs. NAWS has a responsibility under the *FIPT* to prevent misuse, and while some members have expressed dissatisfaction about no longer having access to the PDFs, we are still able to make foundational literature items such as the White Booklet and *An Introductory Guide to NA* available online, as these titles are not targeted for misuse in the same way that book-length literature is.

With the increasing demand for e-reader versions of book-length literature, we have been working for some time to be able to offer versions of our literature that will be compatible with many of the various e-reader devices available on the market today. At WSC 2012, two *CAR* motions were approved, changing the *FIPT* in order to allow NAWS to create "enhanced" electronic or digital versions, which may include things like audio clips or relevant hyperlinks to other NA materials and to allow NAWS to package various Fellowship-approved materials together in different ways. (An example of such bundling would be a Fourth Step thumb drive combining Fourth Step materials from the Basic Text, *It Works: How and Why*, the *NA Step Working Guides*, and IP #10, *Working Step Four in Narcotics Anonymous*, all in a single location.) While we have not yet made enhanced versions or bundled items available, we were able to release the Basic Text, *It Works: How and Why*, and *Sponsorship* in e-book format for Amazon Kindle and iTunes during this fiscal year. We look forward to providing other items in the near future.

