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## **Internal Use of NA Intellectual Property**

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**The NA Fellowship’s policy on the reproduction and use of copyrighted NA Fellowship-approved recovery literature and the use of registered NA trademarks by NA groups, service boards, and committees.**

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The Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust (*FIPT*) describes in detail how NA’s name, trademarks, and recovery literature are protected and administered by Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. (NA World Services). At the request of the Fellowship, as given voice by its groups through their regional delegates at the 1993 World Service Conference, and for the benefit of the Fellowship as a whole (who is the Beneficiary of this Trust), the *FIPT* was created, and NA World Services was formally appointed the Trustee of the Fellowship’s intellectual properties, and confirmed to be the sole publisher and distributor of all NA recovery literature. NA World Services is directly accountable to the World Service Conference and, as trustee, holds legal title to all NA trademarks and recovery literature. This bulletin and other Intellectual Property Bulletins are presented as an adjunct to the *FIPT* and contain the policies related to the accepted use of NA’s intellectual properties within the Fellowship, without having to request specific permission from NA World Services. These policies are based partly on legal considerations and partly on the nature of NA. These policies help ensure that NA’s name, trademarks, and recovery literature will always be available to fulfill our primary purpose. **Any use of NA’s name, trademarks, recovery literature, or other intellectual property that is not specifically covered here is reserved to Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc.**

### **Our fiduciary duty**

As trustee, NA World Service has been entrusted with the responsibility to obtain, maintain, and enforce copyright and trademark protection for NA’s name, trademarks, and recovery literature on behalf of the Fellowship. Because no one person or group of people owns Fellowship-approved literature, copyright ownership is registered in the name of Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. This ensures, among other things, that the Fellowship’s message as presented in our recovery books and pamphlets is not changed, used, or sold by others, and the Fellowship’s trademarks are not used in an inappropriate way. This is first and foremost about the integrity of the NA message and the need to protect NA’s intellectual property so that NA can continue to own and control its own material. NA World Services has also been delegated the responsibility to ensure that Narcotics Anonymous literature being distributed contains the current text agreed upon by the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous. Protecting our copyrights and trademarks is an essential way to guarantee the conceptual fidelity of the NA message, NA literature, and to safeguard the property of the NA Fellowship.

In order to maintain copyright control, NA recovery material can only be reproduced with permission of NA World Services, the copyright holder. All recovery material has a Fellowship–approved logo described later in this document. This bulletin attempts to outline that permission within Narcotics Anonymous. You can find additional information about these efforts at [www.na.org/fipt](http://www.na.org/fipt).

## **Making our Message Available**

NA World Services goes to great lengths to ensure access to the NA message. Fellowship-approved recovery pamphlets, meeting readings, and booklets are posted on [www.na.org](http://www.na.org) in over fifty languages. Fellowship websites that wish to provide access to this material should include a link to these pieces, rather than copying or posting this material themselves. NA World Services does not currently post book-length pieces of NA literature online because of our previous experience with the widespread proliferation of PDF versions. The practical inability to control widespread distribution of electronically produced materials weakens the Fellowship's ability to protect its copyrighted material. We fulfill this need by NA World Services distributing thousands of printed books and other recovery literature to addicts in need each year.

Most of NA World Services' income comes from proceeds on the sales of printed literature, and it currently gives away or subsidizes more than a half million dollars' worth of literature each year. The money members do or don't spend on literature affects NA World Services' ability to respond to requests for literature from addicts across the globe. We are not a normal business; we are a spiritual Fellowship that has to manage a business, and that is NA World Services. However, in order to fulfill our mission—to work toward a future where “every addict in the world has a chance to experience the message in their own language and culture”—NA World Services needs to remain financially stable and able to reproduce, register, and protect the intellectual property of Narcotics Anonymous.

### **Policy for Use & Reproduction of NA Recovery Literature by Groups and Service Bodies**

#### **Use by individual NA members or others**

Policies, in this or other Intellectual Property Bulletins, do not grant individual NA members or those outside NA permission to use NA copyrighted recovery literature, or other intellectual property. Individual NA members or others who wish to use any part of NA's copyrighted recovery literature should write directly to Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

#### **Use by NA groups**

As a general rule, no one has the authority to reproduce NA Fellowship-approved recovery literature without prior written permission from NA World Services. However, given the nature of our Fellowship, our experience indicates that NA groups *and only NA groups* should have the authority to reproduce current Fellowship-approved recovery literature pamphlets and booklets, so long as they consider the Fourth Tradition and the limitations described here. A description of the NA group—its nature, function, and role in the NA Fellowship—can be found in the *Group Booklet*. This permission does not apply to any Fellowship-approved book-length pieces. A book-length piece is defined as over 25,000 words in English.

When considering the need to reproduce NA Fellowship-approved recovery literature, NA groups should consider the spiritual principles of responsibility, unity, and autonomy as referenced in our Fourth Tradition, and follow all of these general policies:

1. An NA group can only reproduce current booklets and pamphlets of NA Fellowship-approved recovery literature when it has a clear *need* to do so.
2. NA Fellowship-approved recovery literature reproduced by an NA group can only be distributed within that group and never distributed online or in an electronic format. Such materials should always be given away free of charge; they cannot be sold to generate income.
3. The text of NA Fellowship-approved booklets and pamphlets reproduced by an NA group cannot be altered or modified in any way.
4. The copyright for the item being reproduced should be shown prominently as follows: “Copyright © [year of first publication], Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved.”

### **Use by registered NA service bodies**

NA service bodies that are registered with Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. may quote or reproduce portions of NA Fellowship-approved recovery literature, up to 25% of the original piece. In the case of NA book-length literature, registered NA service bodies may reproduce or quote up to 25% of a single chapter; daily meditation entries are considered a chapter. If you have questions or want approval to exceed these limits, please contact Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

For locally developed resources, we ask that the piece clearly state what it is and what service body approved it. In order to avoid confusion, the formatting should not resemble NA recovery literature. Translations of NA recovery literature often involve local reproduction during the local approval process. Approvals for this purpose can be obtained by contacting Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

NA service bodies that are registered with Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. that wish to quote or reproduce portions of NA Fellowship-approved recovery literature should always include the proper notation or credit identifying the origin of the quote or portion.

### **POLICY FOR USE OF NA TRADEMARKS BY GROUPS AND SERVICE BODIES**

#### **Use by individual NA members or others**

Policies in this or other Intellectual Property Bulletins, do not grant individual NA members or those outside NA permission to reproduce or use NA trademarks or other intellectual property. Individual NA members or others who wish to use NA's trademarks should write directly to Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc.

#### **Use by NA groups and service bodies**

The policies below outline how all NA groups and also service bodies that are registered with Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. may use NA's trademarks.

Some of the NA Fellowship's registered trademarks are: the name "Narcotics Anonymous," the stylized NA initials, the diamond in a circle, and the original NA group logo, all shown below. NA World Services also has additional registered trademarks that are reserved for use by NA World Services.



Narcotics Anonymous®



#### **Policies for Use**

Use of Narcotics Anonymous trademarks should always reflect the seriousness of our primary purpose and our spiritual foundation of anonymity. The Narcotics Anonymous name or trademarks should not be used by an NA group or service body in any way that would imply affiliation, legal liability, or financial responsibility by or to another part of the Fellowship, service structure, or outside enterprise. That means that we should not use the Fellowship's trademarks, name, or logos:

- in any way that would serve to endorse, finance, promote, or affiliate the NA Fellowship with any outside enterprise;
- in conjunction with any law enforcement, political, medical, or religious slogans, themes, or other related materials;
- in a manner as to possibly offend or disrespect the sensibilities of other organizations, groups, or NA as a whole; or
- in any manner that could draw us into public controversy.

### **“NA Fellowship Approved” trademark**

The “NA Fellowship Approved” trademark is used to indicate that a piece of recovery literature has been approved by the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as given voice by its groups through their delegates at the World Service Conference. Literature with this trademark is typically the only type of literature read in NA meetings. The “NA Fellowship Approved” trademark is only used by Narcotics Anonymous World Services, Inc. and may not be used by any NA group, service body, or any others, on any other materials.



### **Marking trademarks**

The symbol ® should be placed to the right of all registered NA trademarks every time any of them are reproduced or used, whenever possible. By doing so, we are showing that these trademarks are legally owned or registered. This is one way in which we help preserve the Fellowship’s legal right to ownership of its trademarks.

### **Protecting artwork**

Whenever an NA group or service body has an artist create original artwork, drawings, designs, or screens using any NA trademark, the NA body should always be sure the artist signs a document releasing to the NA body his or her rights to the artwork, including the original rendering. By doing so, we ensure that neither the NA logos nor any artwork that has been created for the benefit of the Fellowship can later be used to benefit a private individual or an outside business enterprise.

*NA Intellectual Property Bulletin #1 was approved by the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as given voice by its groups through their regional service representatives at the World Service Conference on 27 April 1993, applicable as of 1 May 1993. It was amended at the World Service Conference in 1997, 1998, and 2023. This bulletin supersedes all previous Bulletins and policies pertaining to the use of copyrighted literature and registered trademarks by NA groups, service boards, and committees.*

*This is the document identified by name in the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust Operating Rules, Article V, Section 1.*

*It was approved by the Fellowship of Narcotics Anonymous as given voice by its groups through their regional service representatives at the World Service Conference as Trustor of the Fellowship Intellectual Property Trust on 27 April 1993, and revised by the regional delegates at the World Service Conference on 30 April 1997, 27 April 1998, and 1 May 2023.*

*It may be changed only by the Trustor.*

**To register, or for more information, contact NA World Services,  
19737 Nordhoff Place, Chatsworth, CA 91311 USA, Tel: (818) 773-9999, Website: [www.na.org](http://www.na.org).**