

In 1991, the process began that formed a cooperative program with the Judicial System and Alcoholics Anonymous called C.R.I.P. or Court Referral Information Program. The program represents a successful relationship with the court system and Alcoholics Anonymous based on A.A. Traditions.

The problems with probationers and court assigned people at meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous in Dallas are the same as those in other cities. Many "sentenced" to A.A. are aggressively uninterested in not drinking, and they create problems for our groups.

The Chicago Area Intergroup Office started a program in cooperation with the Judicial System for probationers. It has a defined schedule with a set format that explains the A.A. program. The Dallas Intergroup Office has copied this program, with Chicago's permission, and has received acceptance from the Probation Department of Dallas County. The C.R.I.P. program is the solution for addressing the needs primarily of Alcoholics Anonymous Groups and secondly, those of probationers.

C. R. I. P. is strictly an information program. The people working on C.R.I.P. are volunteers from Alcoholics Anonymous who gladly donate their time. The purpose of C. R. I. P. is to inform people that there is help available in A.A. if the person has a problem with alcohol. This help comes in the form of the 12 step program called Alcoholics Anonymous which enables alcoholics to live happy, productive lives without alcohol.

The films and literature are from Alcoholics Anonymous. The people that lead the sessions do not speak for Alcoholics Anonymous as a whole, but speak of their own experiences and relate how the program of Alcoholics Anonymous has helped them.

There are six sessions over a six week period held at the George Allen Court House, 600 Commerce Street, Dallas, Texas, on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays at 7:00 p.m. There is a Probation Officer present to sign any papers and to answer questions related to the judicial/court system. All films shown and all printed materials handed out are from Alcoholics Anonymous.

Each session opens with a statement from the Probation Officer. Then an A.A. volunteer takes over and begins with a "Welcome" statement to the probationers.

The schedule is as follows:

- 1) Show the film "YOUNG PEOPLE IN A.A." then an A.A. speaker.
- 2) Each A.A. presents a 5-10 minute lead telling their personal experience.
- 3) Show the film "IT SURE BEATS SITTING IN A CELL." followed by the A.A. speaker.
- 4) Have talks by A.A., ALANON, ALATEEN and N.A. Explain the different types of meetings available including open/closed meetings.
- 5) Show the film "HOPE" followed by an A.A. speaker.
- 6) Have A. A.'s hold a discussion meeting with the probationers observing. The meeting is conducted like any A.A. meeting with Preamble, Topic and closing. The probationers may ask questions or join in at the end of the meeting.

ALL OF THE ABOVE IS CURRENTLY SUBJECT TO CHANGE BY OPINION AND/OR EXPERIENCE.

"A.A. does not wish to be exclusive, but does hope to continue to be effective with alcoholics. Experience indicates that we cannot remain effective if we attempt multiple purpose activities. Experience also indicates that nonalcoholic persons, including drug addicts, do not get the help or support they need from A.A. in the long run." *

**General Service Office letter of 1/93 to "Friends."*

If you have any questions concerning this program, please call the Dallas Intergroup Association of Alcoholics Anonymous. Our office is open from 9 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday. (214)239-4599.

There is no charge for the C.R.I.P. program.