

Proposal 2022 – 1

Submitted by: CA1312

Issue: We propose that, upon signing WSO’s 2020 revised copyright release, any (non-religious, non treatment facility) pre-2006 anonymous ACA/ACoA Twelve-Step program materials may be put up for direct fellowship review on the ACA Literature page of adultchildren.org for a period of three years, subject only to Literature Committee vetting for compliance with the ACA Twelve Traditions.

Background: ACA’s “Big Red Book,” published 2006, left out materials including books, poems, artwork and personal sharing which were written by and for adult children specifically for the ACA/ACoA 12-Step program and fellowship; materials accepted within the worldwide ACA/ACoA fellowship meeting and in Intergroups, Regions and Countries. A reason for this was that, prior to 2020, the WSO copyright release policy did not allow these materials to be shared within WSO with the author’s permission, but in May 2020, the WSO Board revised the copyright release form to now make this acceptable. This was a WSO OPPM policy correction.

Books and pamphlets of ACA/ACoA Twelve-Step materials developed from applying “The Problem and The Solution” to working AA’s original program exist and are available. Handouts from Indigenous Peoples sharing circles, worksheets and exercises for building ties with Inner Children, and ACA handouts from non-Anglo North American ACA fellowships exist. These should be made freely available for review, with authors permission, within ACA as a whole prior to submission through the WSO Literature Committee in order to both broaden the scope of the current ACA program and to stimulate new creativity. These were already accepted ACA/ACoA program materials that were not available to those who compiled the Big Red Book in 2006.

Resources/Implementation: Neither the existing ACA WSO adultchildren.org Literature page nor the acawso.org Literature Committee page has a sub-page for “Anonymous ACA Materials for Fellowship Review” at this time. If this proposal is accepted, the Board will be mandated to set up such a page (or pages) as well as establishing a sub-committee within the WSO Literature Committee to screen submissions for compliance with the ACA Twelve Steps, Twelve Traditions and basic principles. “Anonymity” for purposes of compliance will include use of first name and initial but exclude professional titles or organizational affiliations.

Upon approval of this proposal, volunteers from the group(s) that submitted this proposal will join with this subcommittee and will offer to facilitate this subcommittee’s tasks and mission for a period of two years. Volunteers from other WSO Committees, from Intergroups, Regions and Countries will be encouraged to take part. Materials posted for fellowship review may be downloaded PDF and be translated, used and/or posted for fellowship review on IG, Region or Country sites.

With author/copyright holder permission, WSO may reprint in ComLine or make eBooks of these “Anonymous ACA Materials for Fellowship Review” category materials for sale on WSO ACA adultchildren.org website. ACA WSO will retain all proceeds from such sales and the author/copyright holders shall receive no royalties or remuneration for such sales.

WSO Analysis: Under the Literature Development policy, authors already can seek Annual Business Conference (ABC) approval for any literature, either by submitting it to the Literature Committee or by drafting a ballot measure asking the ABC to authorize fellowship review. The current policy ensures an important role for the fellowship and a decisive role for the Conference in approving new literature as reflecting the fellowship’s current thinking and experience. This Proposal, as drafted, appears to

eliminate any role for the Conference, and also limit the avenues for editing based on fellowship input—for one broad class of literature that was drafted before 2006. It is not clear to ACA World Service why exempting any class of literature from full Conference and fellowship review is needed or beneficial.

