

Bridging the Gap Fact Sheet

The Maryland General Service (MGS) Treatment Facilities Committee (TFC) is looking for AA members who are willing to be a Bridging the Gap (BTG) Temporary Contact (TC).

What is a Temporary Contact?

- A TC is an AA member in the BTG Program who helps a newcomer make the successful transition from a treatment or correctional facility into AA.
- A TC is not committed to help with every case; he or she simply assists when he or she can.
- This is basic 12th Step work, and the initial contact is like a 12th Step call.
- Being a TC is not the same type or level of commitment as being a sponsor. It is simply helping a newcomer to get started in AA.
- A TC does not provide lodging, money, or other social services.

What is a Temporary Contact expected to do?

- Meet or make contact with the newcomer before the newcomer leaves the facility.
- To avoid any misunderstandings, explain clearly that this is a temporary arrangement.
- Try to do the things outlined in the AA pamphlet; [Bridging the Gap](#).
- Take the newcomer to a meeting and introduce him or her to other AA members.
- Explain group membership and the value of having a home group.
- Explain sponsorship to the newcomer, referring to the pamphlet; [Questions and Answers about Sponsorship](#) and perhaps help the newcomer find a sponsor.
- Review the many different meeting formats – open, closed, speakers, etc.
- Ensure the newcomer knows how to obtain a listing of meetings or provide a list to him or her.
- Introduce the newcomer to AA conference-approved literature and the AA Grapevine.