Twelve Steps of S.L.A.A.*

1. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.

2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood God.

4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

7. Humbly asked Him to restore us to sanity.

8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed and made direct amends to them wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

9. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

10. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.

11. Found a spiritual guidance that was helpful and was willing to make amends to them all.

12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to sex and love addicts and to practice these principles in all areas of our lives.

The Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous

1. We admitted that we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable.

2. Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

3. Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood God.

4. Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.

5. Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.

6. Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.

7. Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings.

8. Made a list of all persons we had harmed and made direct amends to them wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

9. Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.

10. Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry that out.

11. Found a spiritual guidance that was helpful and was willing to make amends to them all.

12. Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to sex and love addicts and to practice these principles in all areas of our lives.
What is Sex And Love Addiction?

We in S.L.A.A. believe that sex and love addiction is a progressive illness which cannot be cured but, like many illnesses, can be arrested.

It may take several forms — including (but not limited to) a compulsive need for sex, extreme dependency on one person (or many), and/or a chronic preoccupation with romance, intrigue or fantasy.

Sex and love addiction may also take the form of a compulsive avoidance of giving or receiving social, sexual or emotional nourishment. This avoidance of intimacy is known in S.L.A.A. as anorexia.

We have found that obsessive/compulsive patterns exist in which relationships or sexual activities have become increasingly destructive to career, family and sense of self-respect. Sex and love addiction leads to ever worsening consequences if it continues unchecked. In S.L.A.A., we learn to accept the reality of having this addiction and surrender any notion that we can control it successfully on the basis of our unaided will.

Admitting personal powerlessness over this affliction, we cease our addictive behavior and turn to guidance from a Power greater than ourselves, make restitution for harm done to others and reconstruct our lives physically, mentally, spiritually and emotionally.

How Can Someone Tell Who's a Sex And Love Addict?

Only the individual can tell if he or she is physically, mentally or emotionally addicted to sex and/or love. Going to several meetings will allow them to tell if they can identify with other sex and love addicts.

Obtaining the pamphlet Sex and Love Addiction: 40 Questions for Self Diagnosis will help to evaluate sexual activities, romantic behavior, emotional involvements and avoidance behavior.

The 40 Questions for Self Diagnosis are also posted on the S.L.A.A. website at www.slaafws.org.

Characteristics of Sex And Love Addiction

1. Having few healthy boundaries, we become sexually involved with and/or emotionally attached to people without knowing them.
2. Fearing abandonment and loneliness, we stay in and return to painful, destructive relationships, concealing our dependency needs from ourselves and others, growing more isolated and alienated from friends, loved ones, ourselves and God.
3. Fearing emotional and/or sexual deprivation, we compulsively pursue and involve ourselves in one relationship after another, sometimes having more than one sexual or emotional liaison at a time.
4. We confuse love with neediness, physical and sexual attraction, pity and/or the need to rescue or to be rescued.
5. We feel empty and incomplete when we are alone. Even though we fear intimacy and commitment, we continually search for relationships and sexual contacts.
6. We sexualize stress, guilt, loneliness, anger, shame, fear and envy. We use sex or emotional dependence as substitute for nurturing, care, and support.
7. We use sex and emotional involvement to manipulate and control others.
8. We become immobilized or seriously distracted by romantic or sexual obsession or fantasies.
9. We avoid responsibility for ourselves by attaching ourselves to people who are emotionally unavailable.
10. We stay enslaved to emotional dependency, romantic intrigue or compulsive sexual activities.
11. To avoid feeling vulnerable, we may retreat from all intimate involvement, mistaking sexual and emotional anorexia for recovery.
12. We assign magical qualities to others. We idealize and pursue them, then blame them for not fulfilling our fantasies and expectations.

What Is S.L.A.A.?

Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who help each other to stay sober. They offer the same help to anyone who has an addiction to sex and/or love and wants to do something about it. Since S.L.A.A. members are all addicts themselves, they have a special understanding of each other and the disease. They know what the illness feels like and they have learned how to recover from it through S.L.A.A.

S.L.A.A. Preamble


Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous is a Twelve Step, Twelve Tradition-oriented fellowship based on the model pioneered by Alcoholics Anonymous.

The only qualification for S.L.A.A. membership is a desire to stop living out a pattern of sex and love addiction. S.L.A.A. is supported entirely through contributions of its membership, and is free to all who need it.

To counter the destructive consequences of sex and love addiction, we draw on five major resources:

1. Sobriety. Our willingness to stop acting out in our own personal bottom-line addictive behavior on a daily basis.
2. Sponsorship/Meetings. Our capacity to reach out for the supportive fellowship within S.L.A.A.
3. Steps. Our practice of the Twelve Step program of recovery to achieve sexual and emotional sobriety.
4. Service. Our giving back to the S.L.A.A. community what we continue to freely receive.
5. Spirituality. Our developing a relationship with a Power greater than ourselves which can guide and sustain us in recovery.

As a fellowship S.L.A.A. has no opinion on outside issues and seeks no controversy. S.L.A.A. is not affiliated with any other organizations, movements or causes, either religious or secular. We are, however, united in a common focus: dealing with our addictive sexual and emotional behavior. We find a common denominator in our obsessive/compulsive patterns, which transcends any personal differences of sexual orientation or gender identity.

We need protect with special care the anonymity of every S.L.A.A. member. Additionally, we try to avoid drawing undue attention to S.L.A.A. as a whole from the public media.

To Find Out More About S.L.A.A.

Attend S.L.A.A. Meetings. Get a copy of a meeting list for local S.L.A.A. groups. Join online meetings at http://www.slaafws.org/meetings. Attend at least six meetings before determining whether you wish to be a member.

Listen. Listen for what you have in common, not for what is different. Sit back, relax and keep an open mind.

Talk After Meetings. Speak to at least one person after the meeting. Feel free to ask questions. The members are there to help you. If the meeting is followed by a social activity such as going out for coffee, join the group. Use the opportunity to ask questions about the program and to get better acquainted with some of the members.

Call a Member. If the meeting distributes a phone list, take a copy. If not, ask several members for their numbers. Call at least one person on the list to discuss S.L.A.A. during the next week.

Visit Websites. Visit the S.L.A.A. international website, www.slaafws.org. Learn about publications, long distance sponsors and online S.L.A.A. meetings. Perhaps you can also visit a website of your local intergroup listed at: http://www.slaafws.org/meetings

Contact our Main Office. S.L.A.A.’s main office is known as Fellowship-Wide Services, Inc. (See back of pamphlet for contact information.) The F.W.S. staff can answer your questions and help you obtain S.L.A.A. materials:

• Our Basic Text, Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous
• the Journal, our bimonthly meeting in print
• The First Ten Years of The Journal, recovery stories by members, in three volumes
• Audio tapes and CDs
• S.L.A.A. pamphlets and other literature
• Read, Listen, Discuss. Read S.L.A.A. literature and/or listen to S.L.A.A. tapes and CDs. Discuss what you have learned with S.L.A.A. members.

Read, Listen, Discuss. Read S.L.A.A. literature and/or listen to S.L.A.A. tapes and CDs. Discuss what you have learned with S.L.A.A. members.