

## Children of Chaos Beginners Meeting Format

### ***The leader begins:***

Good afternoon. This is the Thursday Noon Meeting of Children of Chaos Alcoholics Anonymous group. We are a GLBTQ -sensitive group; all are welcome! My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am an alcoholic.

### ***AA Preamble***

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism. The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy; neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

Is there anyone who's at their first AA meeting or with less than thirty days of sobriety who'd like to be recognized?

Are there any visitors from out of town?

Starting on my right, we will now go around the room and introduce ourselves.

### ***Group identity.***

This meeting is different from most other AA meetings in that we close with a moment of silent meditation for the alcoholic who still suffers, and then recite the AA Pledge of Responsibility: *"When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there: and for that, I am responsible."*

Today we are focusing on the needs of those in their first year of sobriety, specifically how we as Freethinkers navigate the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous

with integrity while remaining faithful to the intent of the 12 steps of Alcoholics Anonymous. At Children of Chaos we attempt to maintain a tradition of free expression, and conduct a meeting where alcoholics may express any doubts or disbeliefs they may have, and to share their own form of spiritual experience their search for it, or their rejection of it. We do not endorse or oppose atheism or any form of religion. Our only wish is to assure suffering alcoholics that they can find sobriety in A.A. without having to accept anyone else's beliefs or having to deny their own.

The format of this meeting is for a speaker to address a topic that may be of concern to newcomers, then open the meeting to discussion. However, if any newcomers have questions or burning desires we are willing to address those first.

***The leader will speak for approximately 15 to 20 minutes on Steps 1, 2, 3, 4, or another topic related to starting a new life in sobriety. The meeting is then open to questions and discussion. Give preference to newcomers before calling upon veteran members.***

***At approximately 12:34 the leader will pass the basket.***

The Seventh Tradition states: "Every group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions." While we have no dues or fees we do have expenses. If this is your first meeting, it's on us; please do not contribute. If you have a card or paper to be signed please put it in the basket and we'll see that is signed by the end of the meeting.

***At approximately 12:56***

Does anyone have any questions? If you came in with a problem, do not leave with it. Will all those willing to act as sponsors please raise their hands? Those who are new to AA, these people are your resources for working the steps of AA. Please talk to them after we close.

At Children of Chaos we celebrate continuous lengths of sobriety with a chip system. Is anyone celebrating a year or multiple years of continuous sobriety? ... 18 months?.., 11, 10, 9 months, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 month? Would anyone like to receive a Desire Chip to signify their desire to stop drinking just for today? Are there any AA related announcements?

We will now stand and hold hands and give special thought for the alcoholic who still suffers, and the recite the AA Pledge of Responsibility.

***(Leader begins: "I am responsible")***

"When anyone, anywhere, reaches out for help, I want the hand of AA always to be there: and for that, I am responsible."

***Make sure newcomers have a Phone List, a Big Book and a New Comer's Packet. If the Thermostat was changed please make sure it is changed back. Please try to leave the room cleaner than you found it. Thank you for your service.***