



FOR THE PROFESSIONAL

INFORMATION ABOUT S.L.A.A.

Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous

THIS PAMPHLET IS S.L.A.A.
CONFERENCE-APPROVED LITERATURE

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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.

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.

Does S.L.A.A. Have a Self-Diagnostic Tool for Sex and Love Addiction?

Yes. The pamphlets *Sex and Love Addiction: 40 Questions for Self Diagnosis* and *Anorexia: Sexual, Social, Emotional* can help people evaluate their sexual activities, emotional involvements and romantic or avoidant behaviors. The pamphlets are available from the F.W.S. office. The *40 Questions for Self-Diagnosis* are also posted on the S.L.A.A. website at www.slaafws.org.

How Can a Non-Member Find Out More About S.L.A.A.?

Visit the S.L.A.A. website: www.slaafws.org

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

At the main office (or on our website) your inquiry can be referred to a member of our Public Information or Prison Outreach Committees. The Public Information Committee can arrange interviews with sober members to discuss how S.L.A.A. has helped them in their recovery from sex and love addiction.

Anonymity

Anonymity is critical to the foundation of recovery. Accordingly, meetings are normally closed to outsiders and those who are merely curious. However, anyone who fears they may have this problem will be welcome, as long as the anonymity of the persons attending the meeting is respected. We maintain confidentiality, and refrain from disclosing names or identifying group members outside the meeting.

S.L.A.A. Preamble

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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.

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 a 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.

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

We admitted we were powerless over sex and love addiction—that our lives had become unmanageable.
Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.
Made a decision to turn our will and our lives over to the care of God as we understood God.
Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves.
Admitted to God, to ourselves and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs.
Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character.
Humbly asked God to remove our shortcomings.
Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all.
Made direct amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.
Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it.
Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with a Power greater than ourselves, praying only for knowledge of God's will for us and the power to carry that out.
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.

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Twelve Traditions of S.L.A.A.*

Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon S.L.A.A. unity.
For our group purpose, there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as this Power may be expressed through our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.
The only requirement for S.L.A.A. membership is a desire to stop living out a pattern of sex and love addiction. Any two or more persons gathered together for mutual aid in recovering from sex and love addiction may call themselves an S.L.A.A. group, provided that as a group they have no other affiliation.
Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or S.L.A.A. as a whole.
Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the sex and love addict who still suffers.
An S.L.A.A. group or S.L.A.A. as a whole ought never endorse, finance, or lend the S.L.A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, or prestige divert us from our primary purpose.
Every S.L.A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions.
S.L.A.A. should remain forever nonprofessional, but our service centers may employ special workers.
S.L.A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve.
S.L.A.A. has no opinion on outside issues; hence the S.L.A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy.
Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, TV, film, and other public media. We need guard with special care the anonymity of all fellow S.L.A.A. members.
Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.

PUBLICATIONS

Available from:
The Augustine Fellowship
1550 NE Loop 410, #118
San Antonio, TX 78209 U.S.A.
Tel: 1-210-828-7900
Fax: 1-210-828-7922
Web: <http://www.slaafws.org>

BOOKS

*Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous:
Basic Text*
The First Ten Years of the Journal
Volume One 1989-1992
Volume Two 1993-1996
Volume Three 1997-1999

PAMPHLETS & BOOKLETS

An Introduction to Sex and Love Addicts Anonymous
Sex and Love Addiction: 40 Questions for Self-Diagnosis
Suggestions for Newcomers
Questions Beginners Ask Sponsorship:
A Return from Isolation Addiction and Recovery
Anorexia: Sexual, Social, Emotional
Withdrawal: Gateway to Freedom, Hope, and Joy
Welcome
Pocket Toolkit: You Are Not Alone
Renewal of Sobriety Setting
Bottom Lines Romantic
Obsession
Triggers as a Resource (Booklet)
Measuring Progress
Anorexia 1-2-3 (Booklet)
12 Recommended Guidelines for Dealing with Media
Supporting S.L.A.A. the 60/40 Way
Addicted to Sex? Addicted to Love?
For the Professional: Information About S.L.A.A.

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