

TEACHING “CHRISTIANS AGainst Substance Abuse” (CASA)

The Name: Christians Against Substance Abuse (CASA)

First, the name is NOT “Christians Against Substance Abusers” (CASA)!

“Christians” identifies CASA as a Bible-based program.

“Against” is occasionally criticized by some because it sounds “negative” so, I ask if the critic is FOR the abuse of drugs? When he or she responds, “Of course, not,” I quickly act like I am wiping sweat from my brow and say, “I am glad that you, too, are a Christian Against Substance Abuse.”

“Substance Abuse” adds value to the program because it is not restricted to any ONE substance as with AA, NA, CA, EA., Etc.

Some object due to other organizations that use the same letters of the alphabet – **CASA**. The most popular in our area is the excellent Court Appointed Special Advocates program. It was founded in 1977 by Judge David W. Soukup in Seattle and Judge John F. Mendoza of Nevada suggested the *name* in 1978. “CASA in the Heart of Texas” formed in 1980. Someone from that organization called telling us that we are not allowed to call this organization “CASA” because it is copyrighted. We told them to do their homework. You cannot copyright the alphabet. They have is a “Registered Name” (Court Appointed Special Advocates), logo, and trademark. In Corpus Christi alone, more than a dozen entities use “CASA” as their name. Also, check out those using the initials (AA) but are not Alcoholics Anonymous, such as American Airlines. To avoid confusion, however, we recommend using our FULL name first in conversations, followed by “CASA.”

We do not exercise any “control” over other CASA groups. Some have chosen to use other names for their support group. But it helps if we use the same name. For instance, we know there are several New Testament terms used for the church. *Churches of Christ* is only one but it is very helpful, especially traveling, if we use the same label.

Must the Teacher/Facilitator Be in Recovery?

No. Jesus did not have to become an adulterer to condemn or forgive adultery, murder, etc.

On the other hand, Paul was able to help some more than Peter, James and John.

From a practical point, the best scenario is a “straight” person combined with a “crooked” one.

HELPFUL HINTS:

- 1) Learn this curriculum inside and out and learn all you can about addiction/recovery.
- 2) Trust the curriculum. Teach it. Use it. Do not go “off the reservation.”
- 3) Recognize CASA’s unique role: the 12 Steps *and* the Word of God.
- 4) Refuse to speak negatively about other 12-Step programs.
- 5) Tap into the experience and knowledge of your students.
- 6) Encourage questions and answers. You are not the only person with answers.
- 7) Recognize and confront codependency.
- 8) Understand and accept the limitations of fully working the 12 Steps behind bars.
- 9) Teach with an eye on the future: After this course ends, relocations, and release.