

Safety Tent Card

The Safety Tent Card will be presented to Delegates for Conference Approval at the 2024 Annual Business Conference (ABC) on May 18, 2024. Here is a history of the development of the Safety Tent Card from the Literature Committee.

1. The APB (Addressing Predatory Behavior) working group was initiated at the Annual World Convention (AWC) in Toronto in 2018.
2. At the ABC in 2019, a floor motion was presented seeking delegate support for a tent card that would address safety issues in meetings. Members of the APB also presented a workshop and skits of three different forms of unsafe behavior at the World Convention in Malmo, Sweden, that is available in text form for groups that want to use it.
3. The tent card was subsequently drafted by an Addressing Predatory Behavior (APB) committee and presented to the Literature Committee for entry into the literature evaluation and fellowship review process in the fall of 2019.
4. A special edition of the ComLine newsletter on the topic of addressing predatory behavior was written by the APB committee and was published in March 2019.
5. The Meeting and Service Safety Committee (MSSC) was established at the Annual Business Conference in 2020, at which point the APB working group became a subcommittee of MSSC. In 2021, the writers were asked to revise the APB tent card based on feedback from the fellowship review process. The primary suggestions were as follows:
 - a. change the term “predator” to a less judgmental term.
 - b. shorten the tent card so that it could be posted on a desk and read at meetings.
 - c. refer to another longer document that explained unsafe behaviors in more detail.

6. A revision of the tent card was completed by MSSC and returned to the Literature Committee with the comment that as the initial writing group had disbanded, they were not able to write a more detailed document. The tent card was referred to the Literature in Development Subcommittee to write the more detailed document. That subcommittee decided to refer to the special edition of the ComLine rather than write new material. It also added a sentence about finding a different meeting if a member felt their meeting was unhealthy. That tent card document was sent to the WSO Board of Trustees for approval to submit at the 2024 ABC. The Board of Trustees approved the document with the title “Safety Tent Card”, but deleted the sentence regarding unhealthy meetings. The Literature Committee then rewrote that sentence and resubmitted to the Board of Trustees, which approved it.

7. Under the Operating Procedures and Policy Manual (OPPM), the Literature Committee is required to present any document to delegates prior to the ABC where it will be voted on. This is not for the purpose of further revising the document, but to answer any questions delegates may have before voting on the document. This meeting took place at the April 6, 2024, Quarterly Literature Committee Meeting at 11:30am ET and 9pm ET.

8. The following motion will be proposed at the ABC: The Literature Committee moves that the ABC Delegates give Final Conference Approval for the publication of the Safety Tent Card.

(SEE THE SAFETY TENT CARD ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE)

Preventing Unsafe Behavior in ACA

ACA has one primary purpose: to carry the message to adult children who still suffer. When unsafe behavior occurs in and around meetings, we are distracted from this purpose.

Any person seeking healing from childhood trauma is welcome at this group. If any person endangers another individual or disrupts the group's efforts to carry the ACA message, the group will take action appropriate to the situation. Anonymity is an important principle of 12-step recovery, however, anonymity in meetings does not shield anyone from accountability when unsafe or illegal behavior occurs. To protect the common welfare of this group and our fellowship, unsafe or illegal behavior will not be tolerated.

Addressing such behavior can include asking someone to leave the meeting, calling a group conscience to discuss the situation, and contacting the proper authorities should the situation require it.

Your personal recovery is too important to remain in a meeting that does not work for you. Check out other meetings to find one that does work for you.

For more information about preventing unsafe behavior in ACA, please see the special edition of the ComLine entitled, "Why We Need to Talk About Predatory Behavior," available for free download at

http://adultchildren.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Predatory_Behavior_ComLine_Final.pdf

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