



**CoDA Service Conference 2022
Motion/Voting Entity Issue (VEI) Form**

Check one: **Motion** (Committee/Board)
 VEI (See VEI Guidelines on reverse side of this form)

Committee/Board or VE/Delegate Name: Communication

Date: _____

Assigned Number: 1

Revision #: _____ **Revision Date:** _____

Motion or VE Issue Name: Re place Social Media policy

Motion/Issue: CoDA (Codependents Anonymous) GUIDELINES FOR ANONYMITY IN SOCIAL MEDIA

NOTE: The following Guidelines were originally approved for Fellowship use at the 2015 CoDA Service Conference (CSC). There was an updated version approved by CSC in 2021. This rewrite is presented to CSC 2022.

PURPOSE: Many members of the CoDA fellowship have expressed a desire to better understand issues around anonymity and social media. The guidelines, which were approved at the 2015 CSC, adjusted at 2021 CSC and (if this passes) rewritten at 2022 CSC, are an interpretation by CoDA membership regarding how the concept of anonymity can be applied to social media.

TRADITION ELEVEN: “Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, films, television and all other forms of public communication.” This tradition guides CoDA’s interactions outside of the fellowship. Utilizing anonymity policy for virtual meetings, workshops, retreats, face to face meetings, conventions, recovery videos or audios (endorsed by the CoDA Service Conference, July 2021): Tradition Eleven speaks to members of CoDA maintaining anonymity when representing CoDA to outside entities and does not speak of recovery meetings, literature, virtual meetings, traditional face to face meetings, recovery conventions and recovery videos and audios. Tradition Eleven does not forbid individuals

from participating in recovery online. Sharing our faces and names in face-to-face recovery and business meetings does not violate Tradition Eleven; neither does the same behavior on social media violate Tradition Eleven. Recording of video or audio during CoDA meetings violates the Traditions. The use of personal video and audio is a choice of each participant within a CoDA meeting.

TRADITION TWELVE: “Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our Traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before personalities.” This tradition guides us in our interactions within the fellowship of CoDA. We are all equals. This Tradition supports the concept of principles before personalities. This includes doing service because of the gifts of recovery a member has received rather than recognition. It supports members not using titles like doctor, therapist, pastor, etc. We acknowledge we are all equal, here for the same purpose. The anonymity in Tradition Twelve allows us to let go of titles and jobs; what we do is not who we are. We can be comfortable with who we really are, rather than an identity tied to what we do. Coming full circle to Tradition One. Tradition One speaks of our common welfare coming first, since personal recovery depends upon CoDA Unity. Reaching the codependent who still suffers is stated in Tradition 5 as being each group’s primary purpose; we release personalities, tying into Tradition Two. Tradition Two states that a loving Higher Power is the ultimate authority; leaders do not govern. We work hard to not let any personality affect us, to let it go, and to find serenity.

CATEGORIES OF SOCIAL MEDIA USE AND GUIDELINES FOR MEMBERS: Utilizing social media for CoDA Members and/or Groups: The guiding principle is to honor our own anonymity (Tradition 11) as the spiritual foundation of our program. It is not in conflict with our Traditions to use our name (including last name if we choose) or our image. This means being on a Zoom meeting with our faces or full names showing is not mandatory but is acceptable. Each of us is on our own journey of recovery, and we each have a choice on these matters. If there is a CoDA meeting on Facebook, it is also a choice to participate. Any CoDA meeting (unless listed as closed) is open to anyone seeking recovery from codependency; we have no need to verify their purpose for attending. It is everyone's choice on the way their name and other information is available to others. No one is required to list their email or phone number; it is a wonderful way to contact others when we are struggling, but it is a choice. Utilizing social media as a Venue for Fellowship: Members often ask if social media (like Twitter, Tik Tok, Snapchat) can be used as a venue for fellowship. When a group or an individual decides to reach out to other members through social media, such groups may utilize terms such as “codependents in recovery” or “Friends of...” Utilizing social media for CoDA Business: In the CoDA

Fellowship Service Manual (FSM), in the section on Social Networking Sites, it is stated “Because there are concerns about anonymity and privacy on social networking sites no CoDA literature or CoDA business should be posted or discussed on any site that is open to the public. If anyone chooses to discuss CoDA literature or CoDA business on a private recovery site, one should limit literature posting to small excerpts to protect copyrights and use discretion when discussing CoDA business.” Online meetings may opt to utilize secure forums for business.

Intent, background, other pertinent information:

This motion clarifies that we each have a choice about how we personally deal with anonymity and that Tradition Twelve is in support of principles before personalities.

Remarks:

For more information on both Tradition Eleven and Twelve, please refer to “The Twelve Piece Relationship Toolkit” and “Traditionally Speaking”

This motion or VEI requires changes to: (please check any that apply)

By Laws FSM P1 FSM P2

FSM P3 FSM P4 FSM P5

Change of Responsibility

Other: replace current on website: _____

(Data Entry Use Only)

Motion result: _____

VEI Result – Assigned to _____ **on** _____ **(date)**

