

TEACHING CASA

The NAME – Christians Against Substance Abuse (CASA).

It is not Christians Against Substance Abusers . . .

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

“Substance Abuse” adds to CASA’s attractiveness because it is not attached to any one substance such as with AA, NA, CA, EA, etc.

Some have objected due to other groups using the same letters – CASA (such as a popular child advocacy group). Just in our area (Corpus Christi, Texas) there are more than 12 different programs that use “CASA”. The local child advocacy group complained to our office about using “CASA” and said they have a “copyright” on it. I asked them to contact their attorneys and they would find out that what they have is a “trademark” on their “logo” – *not a copyright*. You cannot copyright the alphabet. For instance, open your phonebook and look at all that use “AA” for their name. However, to avoid confusion, when I first mention CASA, I always use our full name.

We do not try to “control” similar groups around the nation and some use other names for local support groups. However, like “churches of Christ” – we have found that it is generally advantageous if we use the same name.

Must the Teacher-Facilitator Be in Recovery?

Not necessarily.

Best scenario: One “straight” guy and one “crooked” guy.

HELPFUL HINTS . . .

- (1) Learn all you can about addiction and from the curriculum & elsewhere**
- (2) Trust the curriculum**
- (3) Recognize the unique role of CASA – 12 Steps AND the Bible**
- (4) Never speak negatively about *other* 12-Step programs**
- (5) Utilize the experience and knowledge of your students**
- (6) Encourage questions and answers**
- (7) Recognize, confront and deal with co-dependency**
- (8) Understand the limitations of CASA behind bars**
- (9) Teach with a view to the future – after the course is finished, transferring to another unit and upon release**