

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS WORLD SERVICES, INC.
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(Between 119th and 120th streets)



Please direct all communication to:

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February 1, 1994

To: Conference Members, Alternate Delegates, Intergroup/Central Offices,
World Service Meeting Delegates, and Overseas G.S.O.s

Subject: I.W.S., Inc. Update

Dear A.A. Friends,

In response to our letter of May 26, 1994 to I.W.S., Inc. requesting that they discontinue distributing the book "Alcoholics Anonymous" in Canada, and that they not use the name "Alcoholics Anonymous" on the cover of their publications, we received two letters dated June 22, 1994.

In connection with Canadian sales, they responded that they viewed any distribution in Canada as another form of extending the hand of A.A. in carrying the message. They further stated that the use of the title "Alcoholics Anonymous" on their editions of the Big Book is necessary to distinguish the top from the bottom and the front from the back of their books.

We have again written I.W.S., Inc. pointing out that their Canadian activities are in direct violation of Canadian copyright law, whether the books are shipped from within the U.S. or from within Canada. We pointed out that A.A.W.S. has been entrusted with the copyrights of the literature written by our co-founder as well as literature approved by the General Service Conference. A.A.W.S. is responsible to the Fellowship – through the General Service Conference process – for protecting the integrity of the expression of the A.A. message as contained in this literature. We advised, that as a result A.A.W.S. has a solemn duty and service responsibility to protect A.A.'s copyrighted material. We emphasized that there was nothing personal in our request that they discontinue their violation of our Canadian copyright, and that our position would be the same with respect to anyone who sought to publish copyrighted material without our permission.

We further suggested that we believe they would want to distinguish their books from those of A.A.W.S. by not using the title "Alcoholics Anonymous" and advised that we would be willing to discuss with them the use of a title that would dispel any likelihood of confusion, would identify their books as coming from I.W.S., Inc., and would enable the reader to distinguish the top from the bottom and the front from the back.

Yours in Fellowship,

/s= George/

George Dorsey
General Manager