

October 20, 1994

Trustees
Alcoholics Anonymous General Service Board, Inc.
P.O. Box 459
Grand Central Station
New York, NY 10163

Dear Trustees,

We have recently received letters from A.A.W.S. and A.A. Grapevine, Inc.

A.A.W.S. claims that we are in violation of trademarks in our use of the title ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS on the cover of the book of the same name, and likewise with the copyrights for selling books to Canadians and printing a Spanish edition. They ask that we do not use the title on the cover, sell to Canadians, or publish in Spanish.

The Grapevine claims that we do not have permission to print the Preamble, and requests that we discontinue publication of it.

Simply stated, we are not violating any trademarks or copyrights and never have.

It is impossible to violate a copyright on a book in the public domain, regardless of the translation. The title of the book cannot be trademarked or copywritten.

We have reprinted the Preamble, with permission, to protect copyrights, as explained in the service manual (S104). We have the same permission as any A.A. group has.

We feel the positions of A.A.W.S. and the Grapevine in these matters are unreasonable. Our concern is that if we do not meet their requests, it could be construed as controversial. We are willing to discuss anything that will put this to rest.

In the spirit of cooperation and to avoid controversy while responding to requests made of us, we have in the past:

- changed our name.
- changed the color of book.
- changed the typeface and reset the type of our book.
- deleted copyright and trademark acknowledgement.
- deleted notification to the reader that certain parts of our book are not General Service Conference approved.

Additionally, until these current matters are resolved, or it becomes clear they can not be, our new books will:

- not be sold to Canadians.
- have no reference to ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS on the cover.
- include a disclaimer stating "Publication of this book does not imply endorsement by, or affiliation with any General Service Office.
- not include the Preamble.

While we do not agree with the requests made of us, we make these changes, for now, to end and avoid controversy.

We feel we have done all we can to stop this entanglement, but your agencies seem intent on keeping it going. Many of our group feel our only alternative is to seek injunctive relief, but we pray this can be avoided. Perhaps you will agree to a meeting to discuss our differences and put them behind us, resolving these issues without public controversy.

To avoid delay please direct your responses to the address below (the last few letters had to be forwarded from the previous address).

Yours in love and service

The IWS Group of Alcoholics Anonymous
PO Box 1212
Croton Falls, NY 10519-1212