**An Open Letter to Professionals about the S-Ateen Fellowship**

Dear Helping Profession Member,

As a member of the helping profession, you may encounter young clients ages 12 to 19 whose lives have been affected by the sexual behavior of a family member, friend, or another person. Such clients qualify for S-Ateen, part of the S-Anon Family Groups. S-Ateen is a program of recovery adapted from Alcoholics Anonymous and based on the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

Sexaholism is a family disease because it affects all family members emotionally, spiritually, and sometimes physically.  S-Ateen members often feel responsible for the behavior of a family member or friend. In S-Ateen they learn that they are powerless to change or control other people.  They can learn to detach with love from the problems of others while continuing to love others and themselves. In S-Ateen, members find support and friendship from others who understand. They will no longer feel alone or that they are the only ones experiencing these situations or emotions.

**S-ATEEN IS:**

* A Twelve Step program for young people ages 12-19 affected by another’s sexual behavior who share their experience, strength, and hope with each other so they may solve their common problems and help others to recover. Young people can benefit from their own recovery program, even if the sex addict or other family members are not in recovery.
* A fellowship whose groups follow the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions of S-Ateen.

 **S-ATEEN IS NOT:**

* A counseling or therapy group. We do not give advice; we suggest by telling how we solved similar problems through our experiences.
* Affiliated with professionals or outside organizations. We do not recommend, discuss, or mention names of therapists, treatment centers, or other professionals during a meeting.
* A religious group. We do not discuss or endorse any specific religious point of view. S-Ateen is a spiritual program, but the principles are useful to all, whether attendees follow any or no faith or creed.
* Focused on gossiping, criticizing, or staying stuck in the problem. We are here to help ourselves and other group members by focusing on solutions to our problems, not the sexaholics’ or other family members’ problems.

S-Ateen meetings are led by S-Ateen members. To ensure the meeting guidelines and Traditions are followed, there are two S-Anon members in each S-Ateen meeting who are certified S-Ateen Group Sponsors.  They act as guides for the meetings–not as therapists or parent substitutes. The Group Sponsors do not give advice or tell S-Ateen members what to do. They share on the meeting topic from the S-Ateen point of view, and from their own experiences when they were teenagers.

If you know a young person, 12-19 years of age, who could benefit from the help and hope offered by the S-Ateen program, please encourage them to contact us for more information. S-Ateen meetings (in-person and/or virtual) are available at international and regional conventions, local recovery events, and local S-Ateen Groups. A weekly virtual meeting is held on our secure S-Ateen Online Community site. For more information about S-Ateen, current meeting locations, and upcoming recovery events that include the S-Ateen fellowship, please visit [www.sanon.org](http://www.sanon.org).

We appreciate the opportunity to raise awareness regarding the S-Ateen program of recovery as one of the tools available to help young people rebuild their lives.

Sincerely yours,

(your Intergroup or local meeting information here)