

Back to Basics A.A. Meetings for Correctional Facilities

Ever since the Back to Basics A.A. meetings reduced the recidivism rate at various correctional facilities in Richmond, VA from 70% to 15%, the **Back to Basics** program has been implemented at other correctional facilities throughout the United States and Canada. The key to the success of **Back to Basics** is for each participant to “TAKE” the Steps “quickly and often.”

In the Richmond, VA area, **Back to Basics** is a voluntary diversion program. Once a contract between the participant and the facility has been signed, he or she moves to a sober pod in order to practice the principles of recovery every day for the remainder of their stay.

The **Back to Basics** meetings are facilitated by those who have been through the process a minimum of six times. These facilitators present all four, one-hour sessions each week for about six months. Then the participants move on to a “Big Book” study for the remainder of the time they are at the facility. Once on the “outside,” they return to help the “newcomers.”

The **Back to Basics** meeting schedule in the Richmond, VA area is as follows:

Monday–Session # 1 (Step One)

Tuesday–Session # 2 (Steps Two, Three and Four)

Wednesday–Step Five with a Sharing Partner

(Sharing Partners are alumni of the program and/or A.A. members from the outside recovery community.)

Thursday–Session # 3 (Steps Six, Seven, Eight and Nine) Friday–

Session # 4 (Steps Ten, Eleven and Twelve)

Since the release of the **Back to Basics-101** DVD, facilities now have the option of using this multi-media format to take participants through the Steps in a week. A typical **Back to Basics-101** schedule follows:

Monday–Session # 1: Steps One, Two and Three Tuesday–

Session # 2: Steps Four, Six, Seven and Eight

Wednesday–Session # 3: Step Five with a Sharing Partner
(Sharing Partners are alumni of the program and/or A.A. members from the outside recovery community.)

Thursday–Session # 4: Steps Ten, Eleven and Twelve

At many facilities, outside A.A. Groups present one ***Back to Basics*** session per week. Using this format, the participants take the Steps in a month.

In addition, throughout the country ***Back to Basics*** A.A. groups have been approaching Drug and Alcohol Court judges requesting that the court send their participants to ***Back to Basics A.A. Meetings*** rather than to “regular” A.A. meetings. Why? Because, “IT WORKS–IT REALLY DOES.”

[To view the one-hour DVD, click here.](#)

[To view / download / copy the four newspaper articles, click here.](#)