

DRAFT - FAA 12 Principles of Service

The Twelve Principles of FAA Service were inspired by the Twelve Concepts of Service developed by Alcoholics Anonymous World Services.

While FAA does not currently have a fellowship-wide service structure that reflects a collective conscience these Principles are offered as spiritual guidance for service at all levels of FAA. They are intended to reflect shared values, responsibilities, and safeguards rooted in the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions.

1. Final responsibility for FAA decisions ultimately rests with the fellowship as a whole. Within each home group, intergroup, committee, and the FAA Board of Trustees (BOT), our members all serve as spiritual stewards by seeking and being guided by a loving Higher Power which some of us may choose to call God. Every trusted servant plays a role in carrying FAA's message of recovery to all food addicts.

Principle: Service and Responsibility

2. FAA depends on trusted servants at all levels. A loving Higher Power's spiritual guidance in our service work is demonstrated by our servants' willingness, humility, and faithfulness to FAA's spiritual principles. No one governs; all serve.

Principle: Spiritual Guidance

3. All servants are trusted to make informed decisions within their service roles. This right provides the freedom to make necessary decisions. Carrying out that responsibility involves seeking spiritual guidance, practicing accountability, and remaining open to group input and feedback.

Principle: Right of Decision

4. Everyone in FAA has a voice and a part to play in service. All members are invited to participate through open communication, surveys, and shared service experiences –especially in intergroups and committees.

Principle: Right of Participation

5. Minority opinions are heard and valued as part of our group conscience. All service levels must be open to minority opinion and appeal. This openness ensures we trust that our loving Higher Power's spiritual guidance is demonstrated by transparency and the example of our trusted servants' actions, in the way they support FAA's primary purpose through love and service. All feedback from the Fellowship to the Board of Trustees ensures that dissent is acknowledged and respected as our collective conscience continues to evolve.

Principle: Right of Appeal

6. Decisions in FAA are based on seeking, trusting and accepting a loving Higher Power's spiritual guidance— not based on human authority or control. This trust in our leaders is built on integrity, leading by example, remaining transparent, and supporting FAA's primary purpose through love and service. All members at every level of FAA service are called, obliged, and responsible to act in the best interests of FAA as a whole, setting aside personal bias. All servants must disclose and eliminate all potential conflicts of interest.

Principle: Mutual Trust

7. The Fellowship as a whole is guided by the spiritual principles of the Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions. FAA's legal authority is articulated through the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of Food Addicts Anonymous, Inc. These two dimensions must be in balance with one another. This balance maintains harmony and unity within the Fellowship.

Principle: Balance

8. FAA's service structure – though informal – actively solicits input from all members of our Fellowship. Every member has the opportunity and is invited to contribute to a group conscience and more, thereby supporting one another in a spirit of unity and service.

Principle: Elective Service Structure

9. Leaders in FAA depend on spiritual maturity — always demonstrated by example and never based on authority of office. Elective leaders embody the principles of recovery in all their affairs to the best of their ability.

Principle: Leadership by Example

10. Each level of FAA's structure operates with defined responsibilities:

- All trusted servants must disclose and eliminate any conflicts of interest, financial or otherwise.
- Home groups carry the message and practice the Steps and Traditions.
- Intergroups support the needs of their associated meetings and groups.
- Committees address literature, outreach, operations and more.
- The BOT maintains operations, corporate records and communication.
- The BOT bears legal accountability and spiritual stewardship. Everyone is responsible to the groups and to each other.

Principle: Clear Responsibility and Authority

11. The BOT provides a vision for the future efforts of FAA in serving food addicts as well as support for issues that arise in the Fellowship. FAA ensures continuity through rotation of service positions, mentorship, and shared experience. The WSO provides administrative continuity and organizational memory.

Principle: Vision and Continuity

12. Every FAA service effort – at the level of home groups, Intergroups, committees, the WSO and the BOT—is grounded in the spiritual principles of the Twelve Steps and Traditions. Love, humility, patience, forgiveness, and willingness, in particular, are fundamental spiritual cornerstones of every decision.

The warranties represent six general operating principles of FAA that safeguard these spiritual foundations in service. The purpose of these warranties is to guide the conduct of service to:

- Avoid accumulation of excessive power or wealth.
- Practice sound and prudent financial management.
- Avoid placing any individual in a position of unqualified authority.
- Make decisions through informed group conscience and substantial unanimity.
- Refrain from punitive or controversial actions.
- Remain democratic in thought and action.

Principle: Spiritual Foundation