

STEP 9 : Made direct amends to such people wherever possible except when to do so would injure them or others

What **TYPE** of amends >>> **DIRECT** amends = face-to-face, eye-to-eye, nose-to-nose

WHEN to make them >>> **WHEREVER POSSIBLE** (not “whenever”!!***)

WHEN NOT TO MAKE THEM >>> when to do so **WOULD INJURE THEM OR OTHERS**
 (“we” are not to be considered as one of the “others”)

The **MOTIVE** = “a sincere desire to set right the wrong” (p.77:0)

The **ACTION** = “a demonstration of good will” (p. 77:0)

*** “It’s important to consider that Step Nine says “**wherever** possible.”

‘**Wherever** possible’ is about both a time and a place. I’ve often heard people interpret this as ‘**whenever** possible.’ If you tell most alcoholics to do what they need to do ‘**whenever** possible,’ it may never get done.” (Carry This Message, by Joe McQuaney, p. 119)

The word “**whenever**” **infers that the time in which something is done is not important** – that it can be accomplished when it is convenient.

The word “**wherever**” **implies urgency** – that the task to be accomplished is done in any place and circumstances – **as soon as possible**.

REMINDERS:

- **Do not “criticize** such a person or **argue**... We are there to sweep off our side of the street...**never trying to tell him what he should do. His faults are not discussed. We stick to our own.**” (p. 77:2-78:0). Therefore, we are not there to extract confessions of slights or wrongdoings on their part. We should in no way attempt to manipulate them into doing this.
- **Check with your sponsor** immediately **BEFORE** the appointment
- **Pray** “that we be given the **STRENGTH** and **DIRECTION** to do the right thing” (p.79:1)
- **Check with your sponsor** immediately **AFTER** the appointment
- **Thank God** for giving us what was needed.

Suggested "Script" for Making Step Nine Amends

I'm a sober member of Alcoholics Anonymous trying to live by certain Spiritual Principles -- the way I believe God wants me to live. Two of those principles are Restitution and Amends, and I'm here today to make an amends to you for the harm that I've caused

My drinking/using affected our relationship. I "deeply regret" (pg. 77:1) how I treated you (or: "how I acted" / or: "what I've put you through" / or: "I was wrong to have....").

I (explain the harm).

I was selfish, dishonest, inconsiderate, irresponsible and filled with fear. I'm not living that life anymore and I know I jeopardized (or: "ruined") our relationship.

*My **drinking/using** caused me to act in a manner which has caused me much guilt, shame and remorse. My **recovery** requires me to make restitution for the harms I've done. And to not do so would jeopardize my sobriety.*

Can you tell me how this made you feel?

So, what I'm prepared to offer is.....

*OR : What can I do to make this right? (**LISTEN SILENTLY!**)*

*Are there any more/other harms I have caused you? (**LISTEN SILENTLY!**)*

*Do you have anything you'd like to say to me? (**LISTEN SILENTLY!**)*