



## Thoughts on Step 9

The 9th step was a big bogeyman. No two ways about it. There are things in my past that I'm not sure the statute of limitations has expired on after twenty-plus years, but I doubt I'm far out of the ordinary on that score. A lot of us have broken into places, assaulted people, stolen, vandalized, embezzled, cheated, lied, committed arson, etc.

Every time I've had any expectation of how things would turn out, I'd end up being dead wrong.

There were a couple guys that I expected might physically beat the hell out of me, but they were cool. I had hoped my sister would hang up on me and refuse to see me, but that didn't happen.

There was one guy who kept insisting that I name the other guys involved in what I did... I just had to tell him that I was there to make amends for my part of it and not theirs. Period. And I told him that I was basically the ring-leader (true) - that I was the guy he had the beef with and not a couple of other asshats who he'd never met that were just following me around.

I'd told the other guys involved that I was going to be going back to this individual, and try to clear up my side of the street, and they'd told me to keep them out of it. The steps are real clear on that: "...except when to do so would injure them or others". I think exposing people to litigation

**“The 9th step was a big bogeyman.”**

or incarceration could be construed as injury.

On paper, I guess that'd be one of the easier amends I had to make; didn't cost me a dime. Didn't have to see the guy face-to-face. Not a moment of follow-up. No effort required. Free and clear. But, it was the only amend I left feeling unsatisfied. But there was no way I could give this guy what he asked for.

From time to time, I think of this guy and say a prayer for him. Hope he finds some peace. Not that he'd asked me to; just that I feel I still owe him.

In the final analysis, I suppose I can't complain. I have no right to whine about the people I've wronged not reacting how I'd like them to.

- Bill N., District 4

This step is a real action step. One of courage too. Direct means just that, direct. It's best to share with a sponsor beforehand. Keeping it simple. And let God de-

cide the timing and opportunity. I want to be careful that I not take it just to achieve my own personal serenity at the expense of someone else. It may put others in an uncomfortable spot. In consideration of all involved, indirect amends through changed behavior may serve us best. The amends I can make to myself, would be to change my thinking and my attitude. And still I am learning.....

-Laura, District 5



# a new leaf

The purpose of A New Leaf is to carry the message of recovery from marijuana addiction. It is through the written experiences of recovering addicts and their stories that we may find experience, strength, & hope.

Articles submitted should reflect recovery, unity, and service.

The articles contained in A New Leaf are the sole opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Marijuana Anonymous as a whole.

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## Tradition 9

When I heard tradition 9 read at a meeting, I really felt this was a place where I belonged. Not just because I'm pretty disorganized. I understand the concept behind the tradition to be one of a loosely organized fellowship with rotation of leadership, guided by our group conscience. It reminds me that we are a fellowship not an organization in which some members have more power or authority. Common sense allows us to create service boards and committees to help with the more organized stuff, but we are all equal trusted servants. Laura - District 5

Sometimes it seems that the phrase, "MA, as such, ought never be organized..." is construed as meaning that MA should be disorganized; an excuse for dysfunctionality. It's my understanding that the 9th tradition

precludes there being an organizational hierarchy which would manage how meetings do things, oversee promotion for MA, and make endorsements. Keep us from "going corporate", if you will. And a good thing it is. How long would it take before things got out of hand if we started endorsing treatment centers? Or political candidates? How about MA recovery centers? Would you like to have intergroup pull your group's charter, because you didn't contribute enough money? That being said, it's okay to have a regular officers who attend every week; keep chips on hand, even take care of making coffee and going to the local DSC meeting on a regular basis. Maybe we'll call it 'orderly' instead of 'organized'.

~ Bill N., District 4



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**Roving Reporter:**

Briefly describe how you felt during your first 30 days in the program of MA.

I actually quit smoking pot 30 days before I went to MA. During my first 30 days I had already gone through the most difficult part of my recovery. I am glad that nobody in MA knew me during that time. I would be embarrassed. I was angry, sad, and confused.  
 Larry C. – District 5

Restless, Irritable and Discontent. I turned to MA Online. I never knew what the term Jones'n meant. When someone

explained it to me, it described what I was experiencing. Withdrawals. The literature on detoxing helped. So did suggestions from others who have gone before. Going to meetings gave me hope. I needed the hope more than the dope.  
 Laura - District 5

The first 30 days of my sobriety were the scariest and most exciting days of my sobriety. I faced so many demons and learned how to trust others during that

time. It turned out to be the bedrock of my recovery foundation. I had stopped smoking for 30 days many times before, but this time I knew that I was done.  
 - Anonymous, District 6

Scared, Angry, Confused, Exhausted, Vulnerable, Raw, Anxious, Crazy, Dizzy, Weird, Sick, Weak, Sad, Whiny, Frustrated. Open, Human, Supported, Heard, Hopeful.  
 - Ron H. - District 1



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For a complete listing of all meetings visit [www.marijuana-anonymous.org](http://www.marijuana-anonymous.org)

## birthdays

Want your sober birthday published? Let your Bureau Chief know or see ANL contact information on page 2.

**District 2**

Sally 9/17/04 3 yrs.

**District 3**

Chuck F. 9/6/99 8 yrs.

Chris M. 9/12/05 2 yrs.

Larry B. 9/14/05 2 yrs.

**District 5**

Thievin' Dog 9/30/86 21 yrs.

Terry H. 9/7/96 11 yrs.

**District 6**

Nick B. 8/13/03 4 yrs.

**District 7**

Bhavato 7/12/02 5 yrs.

Jennifer 7/5/06 1 year!

**District 15**

Larry 9/11/05 2 yrs.

Ellen 9/19/04 3 yrs.

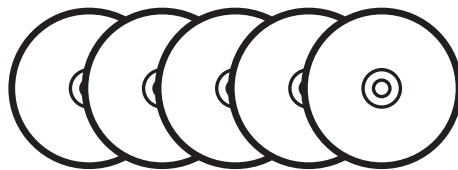
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