

This Issue and Concern was submitted to the WSC on March 31st 2022 via the following website portal: [Issues and Concerns - Debtors Anonymous](#)

We are (1) of three (3) D.A. Intergroups who support D.A. groups who meet primarily via the telephone, web conference, hybrid, or other virtual means:

DATIG DA Telephone Intergroup (#1353)
DA HOW Phone Meeting Intergroup (#141022)
Virtual Intergroup for Brazil DA ONLINE (#7684)

We have served our virtual meetings for (7) years since we received our Intergroup designation in 2015. The reasons our D.A. groups joined together are as varied as our members, but the unifying force is a desire to stop incurring unsecured debt and to help support each other.

Recently, a D.A. representative notified us that we would not be allowed to re-register as a D.A. Intergroup because we do not meet the qualifications to be recognized as a D.A. Intergroup.

We adamantly disagree with that interpretation. **Section 1 – Introduction to D.A. Intergroups** of the Intergroup Service Handbook for Debtors Anonymous (ISHDA) states that “An Intergroup can also serve the needs of members who attend meetings on the telephone (Debtors Anonymous Telephone Intergroup – DATIG), or on the internet.”

The guidance states that a D.A. intergroup can form to serve the needs of members who attend meetings virtually. It does not state that all telephone or virtual groups must belong to only one virtual intergroup (Debtors Anonymous Telephone Intergroup – DATIG).

We ask that we be allowed to continue our service as a D.A. Intergroup until the D.A. World Service Conference (WSC) can clarify what the qualifications are for forming a virtual D.A. Intergroup. The guidance on telephone and virtual D.A. Intergroups is not substantial nor clear enough to meet the needs of the fellowship.

This topic is of growing relevance since the current health restrictions have contributed significantly to the growth of telephone & virtual meetings. Many, if not most, D.A. members now attend meetings virtually. These virtual groups have attracted home group members from various parts of the world and it's members may choose to continue meeting virtually even after the health restrictions are lifted.

I trust this concern will be taken seriously and that the committee will elicit feedback from the fellowship. That it will be handled in the spirit of D.A. Tradition 2 which states “For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern.”

The growth of D.A. depends on their being avenues for debtors to access recovery by whatever means they choose to and that new avenues not be stifled and/or closed off entirely. In contrast, we believe that the means for debtors to access recovery should be facilitated by the WSC and the General Service Board of Debtors Anonymous (GSB).

We are aware that the **WSC Intergroup Caucus** also recognizes the need to clarify the guidance currently in the various D.A. service manuals in respect to Intergroups.

From 1Q 2022 issue of the DA Focus:

Sponsor An Intergroup + DAMS/Intergroup Service Manual

“Also, working on revising, updating, and aligning the intergroup service manual and chapter 3 of the DAMS including ‘how to start an intergroup’.”

Intergroups For Virtual Meetings:

“With global changes affecting the way we run our meetings and the sudden change to virtual meetings, we are discussing how intergroups might evolve to meet the needs of groups in this new ‘territory’.

...Discussions about the role of intergroups in the structure of D.A. and regionalisation are ongoing.”

Thank you for your consideration to this matter and your service. We greatly appreciate it.