

Basic Recovery Assets and Liabilities

Liabilities
Watch for—

Steps Four through Nine as described in the “Big
Step 4: pg. 64:1(1-7); pg. 64:3(1-9); pg. 68:1(1-3); pg. 69:1(1-3)

Resentment

vs.

Who or what are you angry at?

Ex

Myself

Court

Fear

vs.

Who or what are you afraid of?

Relapse

Health

Harms

vs.

Whom have you hurt . . .

because of your selfishness?

Ex

Friend

because of your dishonesty?

Employer

*Family
Member*

Basic Recovery Assets and Liabilities Checklist

Liabilities
Watch for—

Steps Four through Nine as described in the “Big Book”
Step 4: pg. 64:1(1-7); pg. 64:3(1-9); pg. 68:1(1-3); pg. 69:1(1-3)

Assets
Strive for—

Resentment

vs.

Forgiveness

Who or what are you angry at?



Fear

vs.

Love

Who or what are you afraid of?



Harms

vs.

Amends

Whom have you hurt . . .

because of your selfishness?



because of your dishonesty?



Unselfishness

Honesty

Step Nine—Types of Amends

Step 9 Made . . . amends to such people wherever possible, except when to do so would injure them or others.

The amends process is explained on pages 76 through 83 of the “Big Book.” On page 76, paragraph three, the authors tell us:

. . . Now we go out to our fellows and repair the damage done in the past. We attempt to sweep away the debris which has accumulated out of our effort to live on self-will and run the show ourselves. If we haven’t the will to do this, we ask until it comes. . . .

The “Big Book” authors describe four types of amends. They are:

Direct amends

Living amends

Amends-in-kind

Amends to those who cannot be seen.

Working together, the sharing partners together determine the type of amends to be made. They do this through a back-and-forth discussion until the likely outcomes have been examined in depth and detail.

There are “Big Book” passages that describe each of these amends. Let’s start with people to whom we owe money. Here, we usually need to make a direct amends. This is explained in the second paragraph on page 78.

Most (of us) owe money. We do not dodge our creditors. Telling them what we are trying to do, we make no bones about our (past); they usually know (of our difficulties) anyway, whether we think so or not. . . . (Making the best deal we can, we find) the most ruthless creditor will sometimes surprise us. . . . We must lose our fear of creditors no matter how far we have to go, for we are liable to (relapse) if we are afraid to face them.

In the first paragraph on page 83, we learn about living amends.

Yes, there is a long period of reconstruction ahead. We must take the lead. A remorseful mumbling that we are sorry won’t fill the bill at all. . . . So we clean house . . . asking each morning in meditation

that our Creator show us the way of patience, tolerance, (kindness), and love.

The living amends is straightforward. We live, to the best of our ability, as a recovered member of the Twelve-step community. We pray for “patience, tolerance, kindness and love” toward all.

The amends-in-kind is described on page 82, paragraph one.

“Good generalship may decide that the problem be attacked on the flank rather than risk . . . face-to-face combat.”

Amends-in-kind implies doing something “instead of” or “in place of.” For example, if the sharing partners decide that a direct amends would only make a situation worse, they then develop an alternative plan of action, such as taking a Beginners’ Meeting into a halfway house or prison; volunteering at a homeless shelter or assisted living facility; or making a service commitment to a Twelve-step group.

In the third paragraph on page 83, the “Big Book” authors give us directions on what we do if we can’t make amends to someone face-to-face.

There may be some wrongs we can never fully right. We don’t worry about them if we can honestly say to ourselves that we would right them if we could. Some people cannot be seen—we (write) them an honest letter (that we do not send unless they have agreed to receive it).

Here, the sharing partners sit down together and write the letter. Then they read it aloud and put it into an envelope. Together, they go to the post office and mail it. The envelope has no name on it, no address on it, no return name, and no return address. It does have a stamp on it to help defray the cost of handling.

Another way to send the letter is to burn it after reading it aloud. Again this is something the sharing partners do together. It is amazing how the letter goes exactly where it needs to go in order for us to recover.

Taking the Steps is all about healing—overcoming the remorse, pain, guilt and shame associated with past behaviors and activities. We heal as the direct result of making amends to those we’ve harmed and forgiving those who have harmed us. As we heal, we enhance our conscious contact with the **“One who has all power.”**