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*ReachingForTheTippingPoint.net/Narconon.php*



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*Narconon-Exposed.org*

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## *What is Narconon?*

Narconon is a controversial drug rehabilitation program based on the ideas of L. Ron Hubbard, a science fiction writer and founder of the Church of Scientology. Many people believe that Narconon is simply a front group for Scientology with the purpose of making money and recruiting new members for Scientology. Although Narconon is recognized as a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization, it does charge for services.

Narconon's ties to Scientology are not disclosed or not readily available to its clients who are making a decision on treatment for drug addiction at a vulnerable time in their lives. Additionally, Narconon's doctrines and organization are nearly identical to Scientology's.

Narconon has an aggressive web presence and registers web sites with misleading names, which are presented as objective reviews of drug rehab centers but are actually used as advertisements for Narconon.

When many people hear the name "Narconon," they think it is another name for Narcotics Anonymous.

**It isn't.**

## *What is wrong with Narconon?*

Hubbard, who co-founded Narconon in 1966, had no medical qualifications and was ignorant of basic medical facts. Despite advances in research on treatment of alcoholism and substance abuse, the Narconon program remains unchanged. Narconon uses unproven techniques and potentially dangerous levels of vitamins far beyond those considered safe by the FDA. For instance, Narconon prescribes niacin in dosages reaching 5,000 mgs to their clients. The daily recommended intake by the FDA is 20 milligrams. When doses this high are given, serious side effects can occur. These side effects include liver problems, gout, stomach ulcers, loss of vision, high blood sugar, irregular heart rate and other problems. These side effects are particularly concerning for patients who may be more vulnerable to liver damage as a result of alcoholism or drug addiction.

## *What about Narconon staff?*

Former employees of the centers say that Narconon often employs former clients who have recently completed the program. This is a huge risk for newly recovering clients. It is not unusual for former alcoholics or addicts to enter the counseling field. However, this is usually after an established period of sobriety and formal training or certification as a substance abuse counselor has been completed.

This is not the case at Narconon. In addition, Narconon of Georgia was recently cited for inappropriate monitoring of drug screens on clients and employees.

## *Criminon: a Narconon affiliate*

Second Chance-Criminon is a prison-based version of Narconon that seeks public funding for the program. Second Chance-Criminon was evicted from Albuquerque, New Mexico after breaking an agreement with the City.

They were allowed to operate a facility in an old jail to house nonviolent male inmates with a history of substance abuse problems, but were found to be housing violent offenders and women inmates also. After being given a notice to comply with the agreement, they left secretly in the middle of the night with 19 inmates in an old bus, leaving their rent and utility bills unpaid.

The Los Angeles Times found connections between Scientology and Criminon, and their efforts to obtain public funding and influence mental health care.

The State of New Mexico commissioned an evaluation of the Second Chance Center. The evaluation concluded that the Criminon program did not produce the stated results, nor did it offer the success rate claimed.

Criminon in Albuquerque, New Mexico was evicted by the City of Albuquerque.

Second Chance of Albuquerque left owing \$672K in tax liens, unpaid rent and utility bills.

***Scientology promotes this front organization without revealing the connection to Narconon or Scientology.***

## *What do the statistics show?*

Narconon boasts that its program has a success rate ranging from 70% to 84.6%. Such claims are impressive, however closer scrutiny reveals them to be either misrepresentations of raw data, or false.

One such study was conducted in Sweden in 1981, which Narconon claims demonstrates a 78.6% success rate (i.e. those remaining drug-free after one year). This study was re-examined two years later as part of Narconon's accreditation process, revealing that of the 61 individuals enrolled in the course: 24 left during detox, 23 left during other stages, 14 completed the program. The overall completion rate was, thus, 23%.

Of the 14 who completed the program, 13 were able to be contacted a year later. When asked if they had used drugs at any time during the year after completing the program: 7 said yes, 4 said no, 2 said they didn't know. When asked if they had taken drugs within the last month: 11 said no, 1 said yes, 1 said he didn't know.

Of the 47 who left Narconon before completion, 24 were interviewed. 10 of the 24, 41.6%, said they were drug-free. This group of people are not included in the statistics cited by Narconon, those who were helped without Narconon.