

# LESSON 7 – ROLES: ADDICTED LOVED ONE AND FAMILY



Families unconsciously slip into unhealthy roles with their addicted loved ones. Whether your son or daughter is living in or outside of the home, there is one common dilemma: Treating an adult as a child rather than as an adult. Your loved one may choose to play several different roles - using a select role that's beneficial to get what they want depending on the circumstance or the audience.

## Role of Addicted Loved One

*Circle roles you recognize in your loved one.*

1. Intimidator: *uses anger to drive people away*
2. Intellectual: *mistakes knowledge for understanding*
3. Victim: *blames negative events for addiction*
4. Blamer: *blames other people for addiction*
5. Playing dumb: *“I don’t understand”*
6. Avoider: *tries to keep a low profile*
7. Socialite: *keeps a high profile but is superficial*
8. A.A. Expert: *speaks in slogans but doesn’t practice it*
9. Bible Expert: *quotes scripture but doesn’t practice it*
10. Con Man: *thinks he/she is fooling people*
11. Closed-Minded: *“I know what I have to do”*
12. Magic Bullet: *“I know what caused my addiction”*
13. “Yeah, but”: *“That’s a good idea, but it won’t work”*
14. Deflector: *tries to focus attention away from self*
15. Lip Service: *agrees to follow through but never does*
16. Controller: *tries to control the course of own recovery*
17. Rabble-Rouser: *stirs up conflict between people or groups*
18. Suspicious: *“What will you do with this information?”*
19. Poker Face: *non-responsive*
20. \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_

## Role of Family

*Circle roles you recognize in yourself.*

1. Co-dependent: *has a strong need to take care of and to please the loved one and everyone else*
2. Enabler: *has a strong need to take care of and to please and do things for the loved one*
3. Rescuer: *inadvertently keeps loved one in dependent position*
4. Enforcer: *plays the part of police officer*
5. Ignorer: *gives up because “nothing works”*
6. Punisher: *uses punishment to try to force changes*
7. Controller: *makes all decisions to help*
8. Jailer: *tries to help loved one change by insisting on keeping them at home to “keep them safe”*
9. Lecturer: *uses lecture, criticism, or advice to try to get loved one to change*
10. Pretender: *acts like everything is fine while hoping things will somehow get better*
11. Avoider: *keeps busy to avoid loved ones and other family members*
12. \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_

In recovery, it is desirable if your loved one seeks a healthier role as a willing student or an apprentice. This should lead to learning life skills and coping skills that will help on the road to recovery. It's beneficial if they connect with someone who coaches or holds them accountable to this new role. This person may be a counselor, sponsor, pastor, or a sober member of the recovery community.

**A f\_\_\_\_\_ member, however, is not a good recovery partner as you are likely to be emotionally connected.**

Parents, spouses, or family members can take on new roles. You can develop the skills to be a boundary setter, listener, cheerleader, or encourager. In support groups like PAL or in a counselor's office, you may connect with those who give encouragement, suggestions, and support.