Twelve Steps to Recovery Workbook for Sexual Addiction

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Based on A Simple Guide To Working the Twelve Steps for Sex Addiction by Charlie Risien (LCDC, AAC, CSAT, CCIP) With info from

Sex Addicts Anonymous

Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous

Joe McQ's The Steps We Took

Patrick Carnes' A Gentle Path through the Twelve Steps

Roy Y's Forth Step Inventory royy.com

Roy Y's Flaws and Assets -

- ¹ Dr. Bob's Fourth Step List; in "He Sold Himself Short," (Alcoholics Anonymous, p. 292)
- ² Seven Deadly Sins (*Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions*, p. 48)
- ³ Clarence Snyder's Fourth Step List (one of the original 40 members of AA, see "Home Brewmeister," *Alcoholics Anonymous*, pp. 297-303)
- ⁴ Boy Scout Law, Robert Binkey's *The Official Boy Scout Handbook* (10th edition, 1990)

Twelve Steps	The 4 th Step	Rev. 08/03/2013
4 TH STEP		
Made a searching and f	earless moral inventory of ourselves.	
ADMISSION STATE	MENT	
PERSONAL AFFIRM	ATION	

STEP FOUR WORKSHEET EXERCISES

- 1. Read pages 64-71 ("How It Works") in the *Big Book of Alcoholics Anonymous*. It is suggested that you read these pages once and then reread them underlining or highlighting those areas important to you.
- 2. Read "Step Four" (pages 31-37) in *Sex Addicts Anonymous* (Green Book). It is suggested that you read these pages once and then reread them underlining or highlighting those area important to you. ([Optional] Read pages 97-110 in *Sexaholics Anonymous* (White Book).)
- 3. Review the words under the section List of Definitions.
- 4. [Exercise 4] Reviews the table entitled "Basic Instincts of Life Which Create Self" and thoroughly understand how social instinct, security instinct and sex instinct apply to you and your life.
- 5. [Exercise 5] Review the Checklist of Flaws and Assets and complete the Review of Flaws and Review of Assets tables.

Instructions for Completion:

Instruction 1 - This inventory is **not** an exercise in beating yourself up. Be scrupulously honest but be fair to yourself. Inventory **your strengths as well** as your defects.

Instruction 2 - The following checklist merely suggests what some people consider flaws. You must decide how they fit with your own moral code. Do not be limited by this list--add your other flaws and assets. It is in this Fourth Step that you begin to discover your values—what you consider right and wrong, functional and dysfunctional behavior—and how you live up to your standards.

Instruction 3 - This inventory is about who you are **now**, not who you were when you were drinking and taking drugs. Be careful, however, not to blame all past bad behavior on drinking and drugs if the seed of that bad behavior still exists in you.

Instruction 4 - Don't be discouraged when your character defects are not immediately lifted after you have completed your 5th Step--that is the ongoing work of the 6^{th} , 7^{th} and 10^{th} Steps.

Instruction 5 - Prioritize! Spend most of your time on the 20% of your flaws that cause 80% of the trouble in your life. Initially check off as many flaws as you want on the checklist but then prioritize to the 12 that cause the most trouble.

If you list more than 12 flaws on the Review of Flaws form, you are probably beating yourself up!

On the following list, check all of your defects and all of your assets. This is an inventory of both bad and good characteristics. You must check at lease twice as many assets as you check flaws or you really are beating yourself up. Then discuss your defects (with your best example of each) on the Review of Flaws form.

6. [Exercise 6] Complete the table entitled "A Review of My Resentments." Take your time and be thorough.

Instructions for Completion:

Instruction 1 - In dealing with resentments we set them on paper. We listed people, institutions, or principles with whom we are angry. (Complete column 1 from top to bottom. Do nothing on columns 2, 3, or 4 until column 1 is complete.)

Instruction 2 - We asked ourselves why we were angry. (Complete column 2 from top to bottom. Do nothing on columns 3 or 4 until column 2 is complete.)

Instruction 3 - On our grudge list we set opposite each name our injuries. Was it our self-esteem, our security, our ambitions, our personal or sex relations which had been interfered with? (Complete each column within column 3 going from top to bottom, starting with the Self-Esteem column and finishing with the Sexual Ambitions column. Do nothing on column 4 until column 3 is complete.)

Instruction 4 - Putting out of our minds the wrongs others had done, we resolutely looked for our own mistakes. Where had we been selfish, dishonest, self-seeking, and frightened and inconsiderate? (Asking ourselves the above questions, we complete each column within column 4.)

Instruction 5 - Reading from left to right we now see the resentment (column 1), the cause (column 2), the part of self that had been affected (column 3), and the exact nature of the defect within us that allowed the resentment to surface and block us off from God's will (column 4).

7. [Exercise 7] Complete the table entitled "A Review of My Fears." Take your time and be thorough.

Instructions for Completion:

Instruction 1 - In dealing with fears we set them on paper. We listed people, institutions, or principles with whom we were fearful. (Complete column 1 from top to bottom. Do nothing on columns 2, 3, or 4 until column 1 is complete.)

Instruction 2 - We asked ourselves why we have the fear. (Complete column 2 from top to bottom. Do nothing on columns 3 or 4 until column 2 is complete.)

Instruction 3 - What part of self-caused this fear. Was it our self-esteem, our security, our ambitions, our personal or sex relations which had been interfered with? (Complete each column within column 3 going from top to bottom, starting with the Self-Esteem column and finishing with the Sexual Ambitions column. Do nothing on column 4 until column 3 is complete.)

Instruction 4 - Putting out of our minds the wrongs others had done, we resolutely looked for our own mistakes. Where had we been selfish, dishonest, self-seeking, and frightened and inconsiderate? (Asking ourselves the above questions, we complete each column within column 4.)

Instruction 5 - Reading from left to right we now see the fear (column 1), why we have the fear (column 2), the part of self that caused the fear (column 3), and the exact nature of the defect within us that allowed the fear to surface and block us off from God's will (column 4).

8. [Exercise 8] Complete the table entitled "A Review of My Sex Conduct." Take your time and be thorough.

Instructions for Completion:

Instruction 1 - We listed the people we sexually harmed. (Complete column 1 from top to bottom. Do nothing on columns 2, 3, or 4 until column 1 is complete.)

Instruction 2 - We asked ourselves what we did. (Complete column 2 from top to bottom. Do nothing on columns 3 or 4 until column 2 is complete.)

Instruction 3 - Was it our self-esteem, our security, our ambitions, our personal or sex relations which had been interfered with? (Complete each column within column 3 going from top to bottom, starting with the Self-Esteem column and finishing with the Sexual Ambitions column. Do nothing on column 4 until column 3 is complete.)

Instruction 4 - Putting out of our minds the wrongs others had done, we resolutely looked for our own mistakes. Where had we been selfish, dishonest, self-seeking, and frightened and inconsiderate? (Asking ourselves the above questions, we complete each column within column 4.)

Instruction 5 - Reading from left to right we now see the sexual harm (column 1), what we did (column 2), the part of self that caused the harm (column 3), and the exact nature of the defect within us that allowed the harm to surface and block us off from God's will (column 4).

9. [Exercise 8] Complete the table entitled "A Review of Harm Done to Others." Take your time and be thorough.

<u>Instructions for Completion:</u>

Instruction 1 – We listed the people we harmed. (Complete column 1 from top to bottom. Do nothing on columns 2, 3, or 4 until column 1 is complete.)

Instruction 2 - We asked ourselves what we did. (Complete column 2 from top to bottom. Do nothing on columns 3 or 4 until column 2 is complete.)

Instruction 3 - Was it our self-esteem, our security, our ambitions, our personal or sex relations which had been interfered with? (Complete each column within column 3 going from top to bottom, starting with the Self-Esteem column and finishing with the Sexual Ambitions column. Do nothing on column 4 until column 3 is complete.)

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been selfish, dishone column within colum Instruction 5 - Readir	Instruction 4 - Putting out of our minds the wrongs others had done, we resolutely looked for our own mistakes. Where had we been selfish, dishonest, self-seeking, and frightened and inconsiderate? (Asking ourselves the above questions, we complete each column within column 4.) Instruction 5 - Reading from left to right we now see the harm (column 1), what we did (column 2), the part of self that caused the harm (column 3), and the exact nature of the defect within us that allowed the harm to surface and block us off from God's will (column 4).				
Remember: Charac	cter defects are assets gone awry.				
Principles of Step Fo	our are Courage, Honesty, Responsibility, Thoroughness, Perseve	rance, and Fearlessness.			

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LIST OF DEFINITIONS

Caused to exist; created; brought about; composed; prepared		
Thorough; leaving no loopholes		
Free from fear; brave		
Ethical; relating to principles of right and wrong - good and bad in conduct; conforming to a standard of behavioral and character principles, be they personal, social, or of a particular belief system of what is right and good		
An itemized list of current goods or asset		
A feeling of anxiety, agitation, uneasiness, apprehension, etc.		
A persistent feeling of ill will and suppressed anger caused by a sense of injustice, insult, injury, offense, or wrong done; to resent basically means to 'feel again' strongly or to 're-live again'		
Valuable thing; total of valuable things or quantities owned		
Too much concern with one's own welfare or interests and having little or no concern for others; same as self-centered		
Seeking only or mainly to further one's own interest		
The act or practice of telling a lie, or of cheating, deceiving, stealing, etc.		
Without thought or consideration of others		
Occupied or concerned only with one's own affairs; same as selfish		
Physical or mental damage; hut; injury; abuse		
Embarrassment, humiliation, guilt, mortification; one down; less than		
A strong or excessive sexual desire		
Filled with: conceit; ostentatious display; sexual desire; consciousness of youth or power; high spirits; an undue sense of one's own superiority; arrogance or egotism		
Lofty, flamboyant, showy, pompous, melodramatic; one up; better than		
Pity for oneself; an unrestrained or excessive dwelling on one's own sorrows or misfortunes		
Askew, amiss		

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[EXERCISE 4] BASIC INSTINCTS OF LIFE WHICH CREATE SELF

Review the table entitled "Basic Instincts of Life Which Create Self" and thoroughly understand, how social instinct, security instinct and sex instinct apply to you and your life.

BASIC INSTINCTS OF LIFE WHICH CREATE SELF

Social Instinct

Companionship - Wanting to belong or be accepted.

Prestige - Wanting to be recognized, or to be accepted as a leader.

Self Esteem - What we think of ourselves, high or low. Healthy self-esteem comes from practicing esteeming acts of self-love and self-care.

Pride - Excessive/unjustified opinion of oneself, either positive (self-love) or negative (self-hate).

Personal Relationships - Our relations with other human beings and the world around us.

Ambitions - Our plans to gain acceptance, power, recognition, prestige, etc.

We have a desire for companionship. We need prestige or recognition by others. We need self-esteem. These things are part of our lives. They are instincts that allow us to survive. If we didn't feel a need for companionship, we wouldn't come together to cooperate. We couldn't accomplish much. Our companionship instincts are natural and necessary to our survival.

Security Instinct

Material - Wanting money, buildings, property, clothing, etc., in order to be secure in the future.

Emotional - Based upon our needs for another person or persons. Some tend to dominate, some are overly dependent on others.

Ambitions - Our plans to gain material wealth, or to dominate, or to depend on others.

If it weren't for our basic need for security, we wouldn't plant and harvest crops, and we wouldn't construct shelter. The human race would die out.

Sex Instinct

Acceptable - Our sex lives as accepted by society, God's principles or our own principles

Hidden - Our sex lives that are contrary to either society, God's principles or our own principles.

Ambition - Our plans regarding our sex lives, either acceptable or hidden.

This instinct brings about reproduction, and keeps the human race going.

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FLAWS AND ASSETS

Checklist of Flaws and Assets

4 Character Defect	Opposite Asset 4
aggressive, belligerent	
angry ²	forgiving, calm, generous
apathetic	interested, concerned, alert
apprehensive, afraid	calm, courageous
argumentative, quarre	
arrogant, insolent	unassuming, humble
attacking, critical	fair, self-restrained
avoidant	faces problems and acts
blocking	honest, intuitive
boastful	modest, humble
careless1 ca	reful, painstaking, concerned
cheating	honest
competitive (socially)	cooperative
compulsive	free
conceited1, self-imp	ortant humble, modest
contradictory, opposit	ionall reasonable, agreeable
contrary, intractable,	pigheaded reasonable
controlling	lets go, esp. of other's lives
cowardly	brave ⁴
	dgmental, praising, tolerant,
cynical	open-minded
deceitful	guileless, honest
defensive	open to criticism
defiant, contemptuous	
denying	honest, accepting
	ccepts help but is self-reliant
depressed, morosel h	opeful, optimistic, cheerful 4
dirty, poor hygiene	clean 4
dishonest3	honest
disloyal, treacherous	faithful, loyal ⁴
disobedient	obedient 4
disrespectful, insolent	respectful, reverent 4
	etting boundaries, tough love
	pathetic, generous, admiring
evasive, deceitful	candid, straightforward
exaggerating	honest, realistic
faithless, disloyal	reliable, faithful
falsely modest	honest, has self-esteem
falsely prideful ² , ³	modest, humble
fantasizing, unrealisti	c practical, realistic
fearful3	confidant, courageous

forgetful	responsible
gluttonous2, excessive	moderate
gossiping ³ close	d-mouth, kind, praising
	erate, generous, sharing
hateful ³ forgiving, loving	g, concerned for others
	ant, doesn't personalize
ill-tempered1, bitchy	good-tempered, calm
impatient ³	patient
impulsive, recklessl consis	tent, considered actions
inconsiderate	thoughtful, considerate
indecisive, timid	firm, decisive
indifferent, apathetic, aloof	caring
inflexible, stubborn	open-minded, flexible
insecure, anxious	self-confident, secure
insincere3, hypocritical	sincere, honest
intolerant 1 tolerant,	understanding, patient
irresponsible, reckless	responsible
isolating, solitary	sociable, outgoing
	ng, generous, admiring
judgmental	broadminded, tolerant
justifying (own actions)	honest, frank, candid
lack of purpose	purposeful
lazy, indolent ind	dustrious, conscientious
loud	tasteful, quiet
lustful ²	healthy sexuality
lying ³	honest
manipulative candid,	honest, non-controlling
masked, closed	honest, open, candid
nagging	supportive
narrow minded	open minded
obscene, crude	modest, courteous
over emotional	emotionally stable
perfectionistic	realistic goals
pessimisticl realistic, hope	ful, optimistic, trusting
possessive	generous
prejudiced	open-minded
procrastinates ³ dis	sciplined, acts promptly
projecting (negative)	clear sighted, optimistic
rationalizing	candid, honest
resentful 1,3, bitter, hateful	forgiving
resisting growing	willing to grow
rude, discourteous	polite, courteous 4
	,

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sarcastic 1	praising, tolerant
self-important3	humble, modest
self-centered	caring of others
self-destructive, self-defea	nting self-fulfilling
self-hating	self-accepting, loving
self-justifying ³ a	dmitting wrongs, humble
	ateful, realistic, accepting
self-righteous	humble, understanding
	less, concerned for others
selfish ¹ , ³ altruis	tic, concerned with others
shy	outgoing
slothful (lazy)2,3	industrious, taking action
spiteful, malicious	forgiving
stealing	honest
stubborn	open-minded, willing
sullen	cheerful
superior, grandiose, prete	
	istic, no magical thinking
suspicious	trusting
tense	calm, serene
thinking negatively3	being positive
treacherous	trustworthy
undisciplined, self-indulg	
unfair	fair
unfriendly, hostile, bitchy	friendly ⁴
ungrateful	thankful, grateful
unkind, mean, malicious,	spiteful kind 4
unsupportive of others	supportive
untrustworthy, unreliable,	, dishonestl trustworthy 4
useless, destructive	helpful ⁴
vain	modest, humble
vindictive	forgiving
violent	gentle
vulgar ³	polite
wasteful	thrifty 4
willful	ccepting of the inevitable
withdrawn	outgoing
wordy, verbose fra	ank, to the point, succinct
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Other dysfunctional ways of acting, feeling or thinking which cause others or me pain (specify in the following *Review of Flaws*).

See source footnotes on page 2.

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[EXERCISE 5] REVIEW OF FLAWS

First, we searched out the flaws in our make-up which caused our failure.

FLAW	Give your best example of this specific flaw in your life
	FLAW

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[EXERCISE 5] REVIEW OF ASSETS

You <u>do</u> have 24 assets. These are the assets you had before sex became a problem, or reappear in sobriety.

	ASSET	Give your best example of this specific flaw in your life
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		

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	ASSET	Give your best example of this specific flaw in you	ur life
13			
14			
15			
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19			
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21			
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24			

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RESENTMENTS

Do not be restricted by this list. It is just to help get you started.

PEOPLE

Father Mother

Boy Friends/Lovers

Brothers

Sisters

Sponsors Employers

A.A. Friends

Acquaintances

Aunts

Best Friends

C.A. Friends

Childhood Friends

Clergy

Co-Workers

Cousins

Creditors

Doctors

Employees

Girl Friends

Husbands

In-Laws Judges

Lawyers

Life-long Friends

Parole Officers

Police

Probation Officers

School Friends

Teachers

Uncles

Wives

INSTITUTIONS

Authority

Bible

Child Protection

Church

Correctional System

Education System

Government

Law

Marriage

Health/Mental Health System

Nationality Philosophy

Races

Religion

Society

PRINCIPLES

Adultery

Death

God-Deity

Golden Rule

Heaven

Hell

Homophobia

Jesus Christ

Life After Death

Original Sin

Retribution

Satan

Seven Deadly Sins

Sin

Ten Commandments

MORE from your experience!

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RESENTMENTS CHECKLIST

"Putting out of our minds the wrongs others had done, we resolutely looked for our own mistakes. Where had we been selfish, dishonest, self-seeking and frightened?"

SELFISH

- Not seeing others point of view, problems or needs
- Wanting things my way
- Wanting special treatment
- Wanting others to meet my needs dependence
- Wanting what others have
- Wanting to control-dominance
- Thinking I'm better–grandiosity
- Wanting to be the best
- Thinking others are jealous
- Wanting others to be like me
- Being miserly, possessive
- Wanting more than my share
- Reacting from self-loathing, selfrighteousness
- Too concerned about me
- Not trying to be a friend
- Wanting to look good or be liked
- Concerned only with my needs

DISHONEST

- Not seeing or admitting where I was at fault
- Having a superior attitude—thinking I'm better
- Blaming others for my problems
- Not admitting I've done the same thing
- Not expressing feelings or ideas
- Not being clear about motives
- Lying, cheating, stealing
- Hiding reality-not facing facts
- Stubbornly holding on to inaccurate beliefs
- Breaking rules
- Lying to myself
- Exaggerating, minimalizing
- Setting myself up to be "wronged"
- Expecting others to be what they are not
- Being perfectionistic

SELF-SEEKING

- Manipulating others to do my will
- Putting others down internally or externally to build me up
- Engaging in character assassination
- Acting superior
- Acting to fill a void
- Engaging in gluttony or lusting at the expense of another person
- · Ignoring others' needs
- Trying to control others
- Getting revenge when I don't get what I want
- Holding a resentment
- Acting to make me feel good

FRIGHTENED (OF)

- Peoples' opinions
- Rejection, abandonment
- Loneliness
- Physical injury, abuse
- Not being able to control or change someone
- My inferiority, inadequacy
- Criticism
- Expressing ideas or feelings
- Getting trapped
- Exposure, embarrassment

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[EXERCISE 6] A REVIE	W OF MY RESENTMENTS		COL	UMN	13							COLU	IMN	4						
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			Self-esteem	Personal Relationship	Material Security	Emotional Security	Acceptable Sex Relations	Hidden Sex Relations	Social Ambitions	Security Ambitions	Sexual Ambitions	SELFISH	SELF-SEEKING	-OL	INCONSIDERATE	NEED TO KNOW	:UL	FUL	GRANDIOSE	PITY
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			Self-esteem	Personal Relationship	Material Security	Emotional Security	Acceptable Sex Relations	Hidden Sex Relations	Social Ambitions	Security Ambitions	Sexual Ambitions	SELFISH	SELF-SEEKING	FUL	INCONSIDERATE	NEED TO KNOW	FUL	EFUL	GRANDIOSE	-PITY AE
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I'm resentful at	Because they did or are		Se	Pe	Ĭ	Επ	Ac	ij	So	Se	Se	SE	3 7	H.	ž	Ä	2	PR	GR	SE	S
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FEARS (WHAT AM I AFRAID OF)

Do not be restricted by this list. It is just to help you get started. List your fears on the next pages

abandonment aging anger authority figures being alone being deceived being found out being myself change compliments confrontation creditors death denial, my disapproval disease divorce embarrassment employment facing myself failure fear feelings financial insecurity

flying fourth & fifth steps future, the getting fat or thin God going home going out on a "whim" having children homelessness homosexuality honesty humiliation hurting others I'm a fraud and others will find out incarceration intimacy IRS, the letting go living Ioneliness losing hope love mediocrity money

needing anyone not being good enough not being happy not being liked not being perfect people (specify who) police, the poverty procrastination rape rejection relationships resentments, my responsibility risks saying that I can't do something sex sponsor, my success unemployment unknown, the violence work Search your own experience for other fears.

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