

CONFERR

presents

2 Practice Development Workshops

What every psychotherapist should know about the Law



Part I: Saturday 12 February 2005

Part II: Saturday 7 May 2005

Introduction

As psychotherapists and counsellors we are always working within a legal framework. We may not always be aware, though, of when and how our practice might interface with the law, potentially exposing the private therapeutic relationship to the public processes of the legal system. There are a number of instances where these apparently separate domains can overlap and when it will be crucial that the psychotherapist understands their legal position and obligations within the law.

Your understanding of the legal issues that underpin your relationship with each client or patient will already be influencing how you run your day-to-day practice. This is likely to affect how well prepared you are to respond if you or your patient/client find yourselves involved in the legal process. To be well-protected and to practice responsibly, practitioners need to understand:

- How different practice settings come with different legal obligations
- How some disciplines within counselling and psychotherapy have specific obligations within the law
- To what extent your therapist-patient contracts are legally binding
- Your legal position in relation to therapy records and notes
- When it might be necessary within the law to breach confidentiality
- In what circumstances you might be sued for negligence
- Your obligations when your client commits a serious crime
- How to prepare court statements
- What might be expected of you if you have attend court as a witness

This introduction to the law will be delivered through a series of presentations, group discussions and case scenarios that highlight clinical situations that create ethical and legal dilemmas for the therapist. We will explore the complexities of being caught by conflicting responsibilities between your duty to your patient's well-being and the requirements of the judicial system. We will also consider the strain legal pressures may place on the therapeutic frame, and how this might impact on the therapeutic relationship. There will be facilitated workshop time, during which you will have an opportunity to explore possible solutions to complex legal scenarios.



Programme

Day 1

Day 1 will focus primarily on the legal nature of the contract between psychotherapist and client/patient, and confidentiality and pressures on the frame.

Day 2

Day 2 will focus on the therapist's duty of care to the client/patient, negligence and what might happen if you or your client/patient needs to go to court.

Speakers

The seminars have been devised and are co-led by Judy Yellin and Jane Ryan.

Judy Yellin

Judy Yellin trained at the Centre for Attachment-based Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy in London. She works from a relational perspective as a UKCP registered psychotherapist in private practice, and is also a member of the teaching staff on the CAPP psychotherapy training. She also has a legal background and qualified as a solicitor in 1987. Prior to training as a psychotherapist, she specialised as a solicitor in family law, housing law and public welfare law in relation to social services and child protection. She has worked in legal private practice and has managed public sector legal teams in two London authorities. As a lawyer, Judy has provided training to housing officers, social workers and other local authority staff. Most recently she has provided training to psychotherapy and counselling organisations on the interface between psychotherapy, counselling and the law.

Jane Ryan

Jane Ryan trained as a psychoanalytic psychotherapist in the early 90's at the Centre for Attachment-based Psychoanalytic Psychotherapy in London, following a career in community work. She practiced clinically for 8 years, and founded Confer in 1998 - an independent organisation providing innovative CPD for psychotherapists, which she currently directs. She is editor of a book *How Does Psychotherapy Work?* to be published in July 2005 (Karnac) and is Creative Director of the new website www.allaboutpsychotherapy.com.

Booking Form

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Occupation _____

I am booking for:

Seminar 1 Saturday 12th Feb 2005

Seminar 2 Saturday 7th May 2005

Or both seminars

I enclose a cheque made payable to Confer Ltd
for £_____

Please debit card no:

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Please return with payment to:

**Confer, 36a Mildmay Road,
London N1 4NG**

Information

Venue

London Voluntary Sector Resource
Centre, 356 Holloway Road,
London N7

Dates

Part I: Saturday 12 February 2005
Part II: Saturday 7 May 2005

Times

10.30am – 3pm

Fees

Single seminar: £60
Both seminars: £100

Current Confer Members' rates

Single seminar: £50
Both seminars: £80
Please note that regrettably we
are not taking on new members
at present

Refreshments

Tea, coffee and a sandwich lunch are
included

Further information

Tel: 01728 689090
Email: ryan@confer.demon.co.uk
Website: www.confercpd.com
Confer, 36a Mildmay Road,
London N1 4NG

Booking Conditions

Refunds of 50% will be given if
notice is sent in writing 14 days
before the first seminar. We regret
that your place is non-transferable
and cannot be passed on to
another person unless Confer is
informed 7 days before the event.