

FITNESS TO PRACTICE – DISCUSSING YOUR PLAN B IN SUPERVISION

- Kathy Raffles



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Resource Guide

About Kathy Raffles

Dr.Kathy Raffles – FBACP.FNCS. D.Psych. BACP and NCS Accredited Registered Counsellor and Psychotherapist. BACP Accredited Trainer. BACP and NCS Accredited Supervisor. M.Sc.Counselling, Training & Supervision.Cert.Ed.

Kathy works freelance as a counsellor, trainer, supervisor and consultant. She has designed and implemented training courses from basic counselling skills through to Diploma, HNC and HND level and Supervision training at Masters level. Kathy's doctoral research explored fitness to practice, an aspect that Kathy is passionate about along with standards being upheld within the profession.

For 6 years Kathy served as a governor on the BACP Board. In addition she has served on two of the BACP Accreditation Schemes (Counsellor and Trainer) as an Assessor as well as a panel member on the association's professional conduct procedure. She has also served as a member of the BACP Supervisor Forum and Coaching Forum and was awarded Fellow 'status' with both BACP and the NCS. She is currently an External Examiner for Bath Spa's foundation degrees and a B.Sc in Counselling.



Kathy Raffles

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This session will hopefully promote both Supervisees and Supervisors thinking of what alternative provisions need to be put in place when unplanned absence from practice/crisis etc., dictates.

The phrase 'fitness to practice' has become embedded in our therapist language and understanding and 'Fitness to Practice' and/or Professional Conduct Hearings have an emphasis on accountability and clinical governance. BACP's recent launch of the Ethical Framework for the Counselling Professions (2016:CI.75) refers to Care of Self as a Practitioner which infers that we need to be sufficiently resilient to work with clients to withstand any challenges that the work presents. This means that we will take responsibility for our own wellbeing by having the ability to manage ourselves to ensure that our work is sustainable. The new Ethical Framework offers points of reflection for useful discussion in our supervision.

In the event of a personal crisis therapists may not be able to maintain their fitness to practice at a level conducive to the provision of an effective service in accordance with adherence to professional codes. I hope you will join me for this interactive discussion when we will discuss:

- What is the contingency plan. Plan B?
- Is this sufficient in this instance?
- Has this been reviewed in supervision frequently enough?

I will be most interested in your views.

References

BACP (2016) Ethical Framework for the Counselling Professions. BACP: Lutterworth



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