

Chrissy J Finch, Therapiesforlife, Professional Boundaries Statement

The various services that I offer and my ongoing engagement with differing and diverse activities and events outside of the counselling room have helped to improve my knowledge and broaden my understanding of differing lifestyles and ways of living and being, and thus improve my professional practice and the ways I can help my clients

it is therefore important that my clients are understanding and accepting of my need to engage when and where I choose, However, I do accept that as a professional, qualified mental health practitioner I may well be expected to adhere to and be held accountable to a differing set of standards for my own personal activities and behaviour, and therefore I endeavor to ensure that my decisions and actions are based upon and reflect these principles.

As I have a variety of services I offer to my clients under my Therapiesforlife organisation it is important that I can maintain clear and solid boundaries between them for ethical purposes and for the benefit of all my clients. Therefore, I cannot see clients of my counselling service through any of my other services and I cannot see clients of my other services as counselling clients.

If it transpires that as a client or a prospective client of my counselling service we have had previous communications between us we will have to engage in a dialogue that considers this communication and how it impacts on any work we do as counsellor or client. This might involve the need for ongoing counselling work between us to be brought to a conclusion, in which case I would endeavor to refer you on to another appropriate professional if this was what you wanted. I would do the same if communication between us prior to commencing counselling work meant that it was not appropriate for us to work together.

As the various communities that we live, work and play in can be fairly small and localised, it is important for the benefit of my clients that an acceptable procedure is in place for inadvertent, unexpected meetings in all of these communities between myself as counsellor and all of clients. Thus, I will always take my cue from you and the way you react and behave when such a meeting occurs. So, if you were to choose to ignore me for whatever reason I would accept that and not acknowledge you. If you were to choose to acknowledge me, I would do the same, using similar behaviour that I experienced from you. I would then endeavor to discreetly withdraw from that situation.

If there were events that it was anticipated that we may meet outside of the counseling room e.g. a pride event, a party night, then it may be possible for us to negotiate a suitable one off set of rules to guide our relationship through that single event.

And all my clients should note that I am always open to further, more detailed discussion between us on any points that are raised by this document.