

Fiona Ball Counselling Safe-Guarding Policy

Updated October 2026

Professional Standards

- The counsellor holds an appropriate professional qualification, DBS certificate and registration.
- The counsellor holds professional liability and indemnity insurance and follows ICO and GDPR requirements.
- The counsellor abides by the BACP ethical framework which can be accessed at: <https://www.bacp.co.uk/media/26718/bacp-ethical-framework-for-the-counselling-professions-2026.pdf>
- Specifically, the counsellor ensures they practice within the limits of their professional ability and will refer a client for alternative or specialist support where a client has needs outside their range of competence.
- The counsellor ensures they undertake a programme of continuing professional development to ensure they are using best current practice.
- The counsellor undertakes regular safe-guarding specific training updates to ensure they are using current best practice.
- The counsellor undertakes a minimum of 1.5 hours of supervision per month covering all areas of working practice.

Confirmed October 2026

Welfare of the Child

- The counsellor does not work with children or young people under the age of 18yrs.
- Disclosure of current child abuse will be disclosed to the relevant social services and/or police in accordance with duty of care.
- Disclosure of historical child abuse will be discussed with the client who will be supported in making their own choice in terms of reporting.
- Where appropriate a client will be referred or sign posted for specialist support.

Confirmed October 2026

Vulnerable Adults

Suicide Risk

- All disclosures of risk to life will be assessed according to the counsellor's Suicide Risk Assessment.
- Significant or imminent risks will be disclosed to the client's GP or other appropriate mental health specialist.
- Clients will be encouraged to seek additional medical support in all cases.

- Significant risks will be taken for urgent, additional supervision.
- For clients who live in, or near, the same locality to the counsellor, the counsellor is able to offer local and national crisis support details.
- For clients living outside the counsellor's locality, the counsellor is able to offer national crisis support details.

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Abuse Against the Adult

- The counsellor will support the client in their choice of disclosure to police or other relevant body, or their choice not to disclose.
- In the event of a case going to court, the counsellor will work within the Policy for Pre-Trial Therapy where appropriate, and the client will be asked to sign an additional pre-trial contract.
- The counsellor engages with regular supervision to ensure they are working in the best interests of the client.
- The counsellor attends regular updates for safeguarding vulnerable adults.
- For clients who live in, or near, the same locality to the counsellor, the counsellor is able to offer local and national crisis support details.
- For clients living outside the counsellor's locality, the counsellor is able to offer national crisis support details.

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Counsellor Safety

- Wherever possible the counsellor will speak with the client prior to an appointment.
- The counsellor ensures someone knows when they are working.
- The counsellor will discontinue the session if they have reason to believe the client is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- The counsellor will discontinue the session if the client behaves violently towards them.

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