

Conflict of Interest Policy

Counsellor: Lisa

1. Introduction to Conflict of Interest

In therapy, maintaining professional boundaries and impartiality is crucial to ensure the safety, effectiveness, and integrity of the therapeutic process. A **conflict of interest** occurs when my personal, professional, or financial interests may influence or compromise my objectivity or judgement in working with you, the client.

This policy outlines how I will handle any conflicts of interest that arise in the therapeutic relationship and aligns with my ethical responsibilities as a registered counsellor with the **British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP)**.

2. What Constitutes a Conflict of Interest?

A conflict of interest in the therapeutic relationship can take various forms, including but not limited to:

- **Dual Relationships:** Where I have a personal, familial, or social relationship with you outside of therapy, or where multiple roles are assumed (e.g., being both your therapist and employer).
 - **Financial Entanglements:** Any business or financial relationship that could impact my ability to remain neutral and impartial.
 - **Bias or Influence:** If my personal views, beliefs, or interests unduly influence the therapeutic work, leading to a compromised professional approach.
 - **Perceived Conflict:** Even if no actual conflict exists, a situation that may reasonably appear to be a conflict could undermine the trust between us.
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3. BACP Ethical Guidelines on Conflict of Interest

As a member of the **BACP**, I am bound by their **Ethical Framework for the Counselling Professions**. This framework states:

"Counsellors must avoid conflicts of interest that could impair their professional judgment, objectivity, or ability to provide effective therapy. Any potential conflicts should be addressed openly and honestly."

The **BACP** specifically advises that, in cases where a conflict of interest is present:

- **Transparency** is essential, and I am required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest to you at the earliest opportunity.
- I must **avoid dual relationships** that could cause harm or interfere with professional judgment.
- If I identify a conflict that cannot be managed ethically or professionally, I must **terminate the therapeutic relationship** and offer support in finding alternative services.

4. Handling Conflicts of Interest

If a conflict of interest arises, I will take the following steps to address it:

1. **Immediate Disclosure:** I will inform you immediately if I become aware of any potential or actual conflict of interest. Transparency and open communication will guide our work together.
2. **Supervision:** I will discuss the conflict with my clinical supervisor to ensure I handle the situation ethically and in line with professional standards. Supervisors help me maintain objectivity and address complex issues within the therapeutic relationship.
3. **Review and Resolution:** We will discuss together how to best manage the conflict. This could involve:
 - **Establishing clear boundaries:** If the conflict is manageable, we will agree on strategies to maintain professional boundaries.
 - **Referral to another therapist:** If I believe the conflict of interest cannot be ethically managed within our therapeutic relationship, I will offer to refer you to another qualified professional.
4. **Termination of Therapy:** In cases where the conflict of interest creates an untenable situation, I will **terminate** our therapeutic relationship, ensuring you are fully supported in finding appropriate care elsewhere.

5. Legal Obligations

As a licensed professional, I am also bound by relevant **legislation**, including:

- **The Data Protection Act (2018)**, which requires that I handle all client information with confidentiality and integrity, ensuring no personal or financial conflicts influence the therapy process.
- **The Health and Social Care Act (2008)**, which sets out the standards for professional conduct in healthcare settings, including therapy.
- **The Equality Act (2010)**, ensuring that any conflicts of interest do not lead to discriminatory practices or biases in my approach to therapy.

If a conflict of interest relates to safeguarding or other legal concerns, I will follow the appropriate legal and ethical procedures, which may involve reporting to relevant authorities to ensure your safety and wellbeing.

6. Client's Right to Address Conflict

If at any point you feel there may be a conflict of interest, you have the right to:

- **Discuss these concerns** directly with me in session. I will listen to your concerns and work collaboratively with you to address them. You may wish to complete a Conflict of Interest Declaration Form
- If you are unsatisfied with how the conflict is handled, you may contact the **BACP** for guidance or to file a formal complaint.

7. Agreement and Acknowledgement

By continuing therapy with Crescentia Therapy, you agree to the terms outlined in this **Conflict of Interest Policy**. Should a conflict arise, I will handle it with full transparency, integrity, and a commitment to your wellbeing.

If you have any questions or concerns about this policy, please do not hesitate to ask. Your trust and the therapeutic relationship are my top priorities.

8. Policy Sign-Off

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Date of next review (v2):	10/04/2026
Signature:	