

IAHIP's Child and Adolescent Position

The name of the Association, its constitutional "objects" as set out in clause 1 of its Memo & Articles, and the criteria it sets out in Bye Laws 10 and 11 for the accreditation of humanistic and integrative psychotherapists in Ireland suggest that it claims to represent *inclusively all* humanistic & integrative psychotherapy and *all* humanistic & integrative psychotherapists in this country. Unless a case were made that work with children is not psychotherapy, then "child psychotherapy", as things stand, has to be just as acceptable in applying to become an IAHIP member as any other form of humanistic & integrative psychotherapy. Furthermore, the Association clearly accepts the existence and validity of "child psychotherapy" already, as evidenced by provisions in clauses 3 (regarding consent) and 6 (regarding confidentiality) of Bye Law 3 (Code of Ethics & Practice for Psychotherapists) that relate to the responsibilities of psychotherapists with child clients.

We have to follow strictly what the bye laws say *and what they don't say*. If they don't rule something out then it is allowed.

Bye Law 11 and 10 do not specifically require that the clinical work should be with adults. So that cannot be insisted on, provided the applicant can show that the course they have followed fulfils the requirements stated in the Bye Law(s).

It should be noted that if members, and applicants for membership, are working with children, without having had adequate training for that, then they are in breach of the Code of Ethics.

8.1 Psychotherapists should actively monitor the limits of their own competence through therapy supervision and/or consultative support.

8.3 It is an indication of the competence of psychotherapists that they recognise their lack of training or experience to work with a client and make appropriate referrals.

8.5 Psychotherapists should have received adequate basic training before commencing to practise psychotherapy and should maintain ongoing professional development.

Likewise, if they are working with adults, without having adequate training for that, then they are also in breach of the Code of Ethics.

Unless or until such time as the Association decides, through its bye laws or by a decision of the membership in general meeting, either to exclude the practice of "child psychotherapy" as counting for IAHIP accreditation or to set particular conditions for it to count, IAHIP does not have the power under Bye Law 1 to refuse accreditation to an applicant whose "psychotherapy practice" has been wholly or partly with children/adolescents, provided in all other respects they fulfill *"the conditions for membership as laid down in the Bye Laws that govern training, accreditation and supervision, and such other qualitative requirements as are agreed by the Association from time to time"* (Clause 5, Bye Law 1).