



AGIP Policy on the publication of decisions from the Complaints Procedure

Policy Statements

- 1.** This document sets out AGIP's policy on the publication of decisions made in accordance with AGIP's Complaints Procedure.
- 2.** AGIP exists to promote and maintain the profession of psychotherapy for the public benefit. This includes promoting high standards of education, training and practice. Members accept that all categories of membership with AGIP means that AGIP can investigate members' practice and conduct, through AGIP's Complaints Procedure.
- 3.** AGIP aims to ensure that the public is protected and that public confidence in the profession is maintained. In order to achieve this AGIP investigates complaints and concerns raised against its members under the Complaints Procedure.
- 4.** As part of its commitment to protect the public and ensure public confidence in its members AGIP will publish particulars of any decisions made by a Hearing Panel, Appeal Panel or Interim Order Panel (where the Interim Order Panel has made an Interim Suspension Order). AGIP reserves the right to redact sensitive information in exceptional circumstances regarding the member or witnesses to the complaint when it does not interfere with the public interest.
- 5.** In all cases where a decision is redacted, the Chair of the relevant panel should review and agree the proposed redactions before publication. Hearing Panels are independent so AGIP has no authority to amend or re-draft the determination other than to redact information which may be considered sensitive. Information may be considered sensitive if it refers to material which might lead to the identification of a complainant or vulnerable witness, mental or physical health issues regarding the member, or other private information regarding the member which AGIP deems is inappropriate to publish.
- 6.** In order to protect confidentiality AGIP does not publish information relating to the health of a member. This information is treated as confidential regardless of whether it is heard by a Hearing Panel, Appeal Panel or Interim Order Panel.
- 7.** AGIP is subject to legislation in relation to information governance including the current legislation relating to data protection.

Key Principals

- 8.** AGIP is committed to transparency and openness in relation to its policies, processes and procedures, and to providing a fair and balanced complaints process. At the same time, it recognises its responsibility to protect the confidentiality of its members during an investigation or if it is found that a complaint is not well founded.
- 9.** AGIP seeks to act consistently in the publication of information about the decisions it publishes and will ensure that any disclosure of information is lawful, proportionate, fair and accurate.

Publications of Decisions

- 10.** Details of all decisions made by a Hearing Panel or Appeal Panel in which breaches of AGIP's Code of Ethics and/or Code of Professional Practice and/or Code of Training are upheld are published on AGIP's website.

11. Details are normally published on the website 28 days after the conclusion of a hearing. If an appeal is lodged by either party within that timeframe the decision will not be published until the appeal has been concluded.

Interim Suspensions

12. If an Interim Suspension order is made, an acknowledgement will be listed on the AGIP website immediately following the decision.

13. The listing will remain on the AGIP website until the complaint has been concluded, or the order expires or is ceased by decision of the panel.

14. Full details of decisions made by Interim Order Panels are not published. However, AGIP will publish the terms of any order imposed. If the Interim Order is terminated or varied, AGIP will publish the new terms of the Interim Order in the case of variation or remove all reference to the Interim Order in the case of termination of the order, as soon as practically possible.

List of registered psychotherapists on AGIP's website

15. AGIP offers an online Find a Therapist service for people wanting to choose an AGIP Professional member. Any decision by a Hearing Panel or an Appeal Panel in which breaches of the Code of Ethics and/or Code of Professional Conduct and/or Code of Practice for the Training are upheld, or an interim suspension is made, will be indicated by a marker on a member's individual register record that links to the details of the decision. If an individual has chosen to be on Find a Therapist, AGIP will note the individual's Find a Therapist record that a sanction is in place with a link to details of the decision.

16. Any decision by a Hearing Panel or an Appeal Panel in which breaches of the Code of Ethic and/or the Code of Professional Practice and/or the Code of Practice for the Training are upheld that does not impose a time-limited sanction will be published for a period of twelve months. Time-limited decisions will be published for the duration of the sanction as specified by the panel.

17. Decisions in which a registrant has been removed from AGIP's membership will remain on AGIP's website for a period of five years from the date the decision takes place.

18. Details of any previous decisions that concluded that the member was not suitable to remain a member of AGIP without any restrictions or conditions may be disclosed by AGIP upon request.

Forthcoming Hearings Page

19. The following information is published:

- a) The member's name;
- b) The town/county where the events that are subject to the allegation took place, or the town/county in which the member resides; and
- c) Date of the hearing.

20. The names of any witnesses will not be published.

Transcripts

21. All hearings are recorded. Written transcripts are generally not produced at the conclusion of a hearing. The parties to a complaint and the member who is subject to the allegations, can ask for a copy of the recordings made during a hearing and have them transcribed at their own expense.

Other

22. AGIP reserves the right to amend or change this policy when it determines it necessary