

Play Therapy UK

SANCTIONS GUIDANCE

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**Introduction**

In the outcome of a complaint being upheld by Play Therapy UK (PTUK), deciding on the sanctions imposed must be proportionate and reasonable, balancing the interest of the registrant and members of the public. The sanctions imposed should be appropriate to deal adequately with the identified issues whilst protecting public interest. If there is a lack of evidence the Professional Conduct Panel can request the Professional Conduct Officer works to gather more evidence before a decision is made.

This guidance should be read in conjunction with PTUK’s Complaints and Concerns Procedure.

**Sanctions**

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| What | Why | Who by |
| Interim Suspension during an investigation **Annotation on PTUK website** | * Serious breach of PTUK Ethical Framework
* Puts a member of public at risk of harm.
* Criminal investigation (ongoing)
 | Professional Conduct Officer will alert the PTUK registrar.PTUK Registrar  |
| Informal ResolutionVerbal or written apology/mediation**Not a sanction, not published** | * Cases where public safety is not at risk.
* Not a fitness to practice concern
* Misconduct or level of practice is not serious, no safety risk to a member of the public and fitness to practice is not impaired.
* No serious breach of PTUK Ethical Framework
* Poor report writing
 | Professional Conduct Officer |
| Advisory letter **Not a sanction, not published** | * Cases where public safety is not at risk.
* Not a fitness to practice concern
* Misconduct or level of practice is not serious, no safety risk to a member of the public and fitness to practice is not impaired.
* No serious breach of PTUK Ethical Framework
 | Assessment Panel |
| Outcome on Consensual Disposal  | Registrant accepts responsibility for what went wrong and agrees to an appropriate and proportionate sanction as outlined below. | Assessment Panel |
| Voluntary removal from PTUK register.**Sanction.** **Published on the PTUK register complaint outcomes section.** | Registrant has acknowledged the complaint and has requested to be removed from the PTUK register. | Assessment Panel |
| Public Safety – removal from PTUK register.**Sanction.****Published on the PTUK register complaint outcomes section** | Criminal conviction relates to the safety of children / public, Chair will be asked to consider the evidence and remove the PTUK member immediately from the register.Put a member of the public at risk of significant harm | Assessment Panel/Chair of Professional Complaints Panel/Appeals Panel will alert the PTUK Registrar.PTUK Registrar |
| Conditions around registration: Requirement to write a report and/or give an oral statement of learning **Sanction.** **Published on the PTUK register complaint outcomes section**  | Where the therapist has shown a lack of subject understanding Inadequate understanding of the client/therapist relationship No continuing risk to clients or the public but public acknowledgement that conduct was unacceptable Likelihood of repetition of the conduct is felt to be very low | Assessment Panel/Professional Conduct Panel Panel/Appeals Panel |
| Conditions around registration: Undergo further training in a specified area **Sanction.** **Published on the PTUK register complaint outcomes section** | Where the registrant has not met minimum requirements for CPD Where the therapist has shown a lack of subject understanding Where there is evidence of poor performance or shortcomings in the registrant’s practice | Assessment Panel/Professional Conduct Panel Panel/Appeals Panel |
| Conditions around registration: A requirement for further supervision for a specific time period**Sanction.** **Published on the PTUK register complaint outcomes section** | Inadequate understanding of the client/therapist relationship Where conduct or behaviour fell below acceptable standards Where the issue is not one of risk to public safety The registrant has shown insight and learning from the issue | Assessment Panel/Professional Conduct Panel Panel/Appeals Panel |
| Conditions around registration: A requirement for self-therapy for a specific period of time**Sanction.** **Published on the PTUK register complaint outcomes section** | Inadequate understanding of the client/therapist relationship Where conduct or behaviour fell below acceptable standards Where the issue is not one of risk to public safety The registrant has shown insight and learning from the issue | Assessment Panel/Professional Conduct Panel Panel/Appeals Panel |
| No case to answer/unable to hear case **Not a sanction, not published** | Insufficient evidence; case closed | Professional Conduct OfficerAssessment Panel/Professional Conduct Panel Panel/Appeals Panel |
| Registrant cleared of any wrong doing**Not a sanction, not published** | When no breach has been considered to have occurred | Assessment Panel/Professional Conduct Panel Panel/Appeals Panel |