

START
HERE

Check the official job title of the professional.
Does it fall under the professions regulated by the [Health & Care Professions Council \(HCPC\)](#)?

Yes
Can you find the professional on the [HCPC Register](#)?

Yes
The professional can provide therapeutic support.
They should continue to adhere to all the standards set out by the HCPC. Any concerns regarding their practice should be raised with the HCPC.

No
The professional cannot provide therapeutic support.
Raise this as a concern with the HCPC. An individual claiming to be on the HCPC Register when they are not may constitute a criminal offence.

No
Is the professional registered on a voluntary register?

Yes
Check which register. Can you find the professional on the register that they mention?

No
The provider / professional cannot provide therapeutic support.
Allowing an unregistered provider to provide support for victims and survivors is an unsafe practice and a breach of the requirements in the ["Responding Well to Victims and Survivors of Abuse"](#) policy.

Yes
Is the register maintained by an organisation that has been accredited by the Professional Standards Authority (PSA)?
Check the [PSA accredited voluntary registers providers list](#).

No
The professional cannot provide therapeutic support.
Allowing an unregistered provider to provide support for victims and survivors is an unsafe practice and a breach of the requirements in the ["Responding Well to Victims and Survivors of Abuse"](#) policy.

Yes
The professional can provide therapeutic support.
They should adhere to all the standards set out by the registration body. If there are any concerns regarding their practice, these should be raised with the relevant registration body.

No
The professional cannot provide therapeutic support.
In exceptional circumstances only: Ensure that you are satisfied that the professional is appropriately qualified, and that the registration body holds suitable standards before appointing them to provide support, by:

- asking the professional to provide details of their registration or accreditation;
 - seeking a rationale from the professional as to why they chose not be registered with one of the more well-known and recognised professional bodies;
- using the details provided to check the specific requirements around training, experience, ethics, professional conduct and safe practice that the professional has had, and continues to, have to meet; and
- seeking references from the professional (e.g. from past employers) or from other Church Bodies or organisations that have used the professional's services in the past.

Additional considerations – please refer to the accompanying technical note:

- Pre-trial therapy
- Use of trainee counsellors
- Use of Christian counsellors