

CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST & PSYCHOTHERAPIST
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POLICY SHEET - Victims of Crime

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BACKGROUND

Under the Victims of Crime Act, people who have experienced a violent crime may apply to the Victims of Crime Tribunal (VOCAT) for financial assistance to cover expenses that help their recovery, including psychotherapy. As a psychologist in private practice with the appropriate training, I am available to provide psychotherapy for people who are victims of crime. In addition to my private psychology practice, I am employed on the staff of a local community agency's Victims Assistance Program (VAP). As there is the potential for perceived or actual conflicts of interests arising out of these two roles, the following policy and guidelines apply:

POLICY STATEMENT

1. My private psychology practice is independent from the VAP that I am employed with.
2. If there a valid reason for accepting the client to my private practice, I will offer psychotherapy to the client Clients and potential clients of my private practice who are victims of crime will be offered a referral to the VAP where appropriate.
3. I will not be involved in decision making at the VAP about VAP clients who are also clients of my private practice, other than for information provision if required.

GUIDELINES

1. My private psychology practice will not accept referrals or payments from the VACP that I work with.
2. When my initial assessment reveals that a potential client of my private practice may be eligible for services with the VAP, I will recommend the client contact the VAP. If there a valid reason for accepting the client to my private practice, I will offer psychotherapy to the client.
3. Should a client who I have commenced psychotherapy with subsequently reveal that they have experienced a violent crime, I will discuss with the client the services offered in the VAP (if eligible), and the suitability of continuing psychotherapy in my private practice. Should the client decide to request psychotherapy with the VAP, I will not continue psychotherapy the client in my private practice. If the client decides not to take up counselling with the VAP, I will continue to offer psychotherapy to the client if there is a valid reason to do so.
4. Should I become aware that a client of my private practice requests case management or brokerage from the VAP, I will request the client's permission to disclose the clients name and my role to the VAP. Decisions regarding eligibility for case management and brokerage are the responsibility of the VAP. Where necessary, I will only be available to discuss a client's situation with VAP case management staff on the days I am operating my private practice, and not on the days I am at the VAP.
5. In my marketing for my private practice I will not imply that my private practice has the support of the VAP or the community agency that operates the program. If, during the course of operating my private practice, I become aware that a referrer (e.g. a G.P.) is someone who I also have contact with in my employment with VAP, I will advise the referrer and the VAP of my dual roles.
6. I will advise the VAP of any interactions between my private practice, the VAP or the community agency that operates the VAP.
7. I will discuss with the VAP any other potential conflicts of interest that may arise relating to victims of crime that are not covered in these guidelines.
8. This policy will end when my employment with the VAP ends