

Public Consultation,
Professional Regulation Unit,
Department of health,
Hawkins House,
Dublin 2. DO2 VW90.

Re Regulation of Counsellors and Psychotherapists.

23RD November 2016.

Dear Sirs,

We wish to submit the following to the Department for consideration. Joseph and Katrina Flanagan operate a private psychotherapy practice in Leixlip, Co. Kildare. Joseph holds a Master's degree in Psychoanalysis from Trinity College, Dublin. He also obtained an honours degree in Psychotherapy from Middlesex University alongside a Diploma in Counselling. He also holds a Diploma in Clinical Supervision.

Katrina is a registered Psychologist Ps.S.I. She holds a master's degree in both Psychology and Psychotherapy alongside a primary degree in Psychology and a Diploma in counselling. She also holds a Certificate in Clinical Supervision.

We believe that an opportunity exists now for a root and branch restructuring of our profession. We would contend that the medical model is the one that should be employed in this restructuring. It is nonsensical that someone with a basic Diploma in Counselling that took possibly one year to achieve holds the same title as someone with a primary and master's degree following seven years of study. This would be the equivalent to a Junior Hospital Doctor holding the same grade and title as a Consultant .

We propose three distinct and separate grades for our profession.

- 1) Counsellor Grade 1; This title to be given to a person holding a Diploma or pass degree in Counselling.
- 2) Counsellor Grade 11; This title to be given to a person holding an honours degree in Counselling and Psychotherapy.
- 3) Psychotherapist; This title to be given to a person holding both a primary and Master's degree in Counselling and Psychotherapy. (A PHD would also qualify under section three)

We are not too fixed on the exact titles once a demarcation exists between the categories. We would also urge that no 'grandfather' provisions be used in relation to these separate categories. Formal educational qualifications should be the primary consideration.

It is imperative that the profession of counselling and psychotherapy is brought into the modern regulated era with a primary measurable focus on education as the yardstick that should be rigidly adhered to.

The public have a right to know the proper educational qualifications and job title when they are being treated for something as sensitive as their mental health.

Yours sincerely,



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Katrina Flanagan Reg. Psychologist, MSc (Psychology), MSc (Psychotherapy), BSc (Psychology), Dip. Counselling, Cert. Supervision, MIACP

