



# QUESTIONS AT A PLACEMENT INTERVIEW

One of the 'rites of passage' that students have to 'endure' when training to be a counsellor is the dreaded placement interview.

The most significant source of anxiety seems to be trying to guess the interviewers' questions and the answers to them.

So, before we come to specific questions, let's take a moment to consider what placements are looking for in a trainee counsellor.

Any agency that offers face-to-face counselling is morally and ethically bound to make sure that anyone who counsels for their organisation is fit to practice and will be a good fit their organisation's culture and values.

It follows that any questions asked are to ascertain this.

Organisations have different ways of interviewing potential therapists; some may have a group interview where a question is posed, the group debate it, and the interviewers observe how candidates interact with each other.

The object of the questions, therefore, is not to get a right or wrong answer; it is a tool used to measure how individuals function in a group setting.

Some agencies may conduct face-to-face interviews where candidates answer specific questions to test knowledge or insight into self.

So with the context explained, here are some of the questions you may be asked:

### Questions around ethics

"What would you do if a client contacted you on social media?"

"Would you touch a client if they were in distress?"

"What would you do if a client stated they had seen you in a supermarket and will look out for you?"

### Questions around practice and problem-solving

"What would you do if a client stated they were thinking of taking their life?"

"What would you do if you believed a child was in danger?"

"What would you do if a client came in under the influence of medication or alcohol?"

"What would you do if a client told you they were seeing another therapist?"

### Questions around personal development or self-care

"Do you have any hobbies?"

"How would you know if you were becoming overwhelmed?"

"What was the last piece of personal development you have undertaken?"

"Give me an example of a self-care activity you take part in."

Finally, if you are asked a question you do not know the answer to, the best and wisest response is "I don't know."