

Introduction

Your privacy is very important to me and you can be confident that your personal information will be kept safe and secure and will only be used for the purpose it was given to me. I adhere to current data protection legislation, including the General Data Protection Regulation (EU/2016/679) (the GDPR), the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003.

This privacy notice tells you what I will do with your personal information from initial point of contact through to after your therapy has ended, including:

- Why I am able to process your information and what purpose I am processing it for
- Whether you have to provide it to me
- How long I store it for
- Whether there are other recipients of your personal information
- Whether I intend to transfer it to another country,
- Whether I do automated decision-making or profiling, and
- Your data protection rights.

I am happy to chat through any questions you might have about my data protection policy and you can contact me via email. 'Data controller' is the term used to describe the person/ organisation that collects and stores and has responsibility for people's personal data. In this instance, the data controller is me. I am registered with the Information Commissioner's Office

ZB408882. KMC Counselling. My postal address is: Surrey Holistic, Wiggins Yard, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1HW My phone number is: 07384896879. My email address is: kate@kmccounselling.co.uk

My lawful basis for holding and using your personal information

The GDPR states that I must have a lawful basis for processing your personal data. There are different lawful bases depending on the stage at which I am processing your data. I have explained these below:

If you have had therapy with me and it has now ended, I will use legitimate interest as my lawful basis for holding and using your personal information.

If you are currently having therapy or if you are in contact with me to consider therapy, I will process your personal data where it is necessary for the performance of our contract.

The GDPR also makes sure that I look after any sensitive personal information that you may disclose to me appropriately. This type of information is called 'special category personal information'. The lawful basis for me processing any special categories of personal information is consent initially. I will then retain any

counselling records in case of the need to reference them in the future (the official legal basis is to defend against potential legal claims).

How I use your information

Initial contact.

When you contact me with an enquiry about my counselling services I will collect information to help me satisfy your enquiry. This will include your name, email address and telephone number and any information you have shared within your email such as age and relationship status. Alternatively, your GP or other health professional may send me your details when making a referral or a parent or trusted individual may give me your details when making an enquiry on your behalf.

If you decide not to proceed I will ensure all your personal data is deleted within one month. If you would like me to delete this information sooner, just let me know.

While you are accessing counselling.

Rest assured that everything you discuss with me is confidential. That confidentiality will only be broken if you make me aware that you, another adult or vulnerable person including children are at risk of significant harm. I will always try to speak to you about this first, unless there are safeguarding issues that prevent this. >

I will keep a record of your personal details to help the counselling services run smoothly. These details are kept securely in password protected files and/or GDPR compliant platforms and are not shared with any third party.

I will keep written notes of each session, these are kept in password protected electronic files.

For security reasons I do not retain text messages for more than one month. If there is relevant information contained in a text message I will record this in a password protected electronic file and delete the original text message. Likewise, any email correspondence will be deleted after one month if it is not important. If necessary I will save a copy of important emails which will be saved as password protected electronic files.

After counselling has ended.

Once counselling has ended your records will be kept for 5 years from the end of our contact with each other and are then securely destroyed. If you want me to delete your information sooner than this, please make a request in writing to kate@kmccounselling.co.uk.

Third party recipients of personal data

I sometimes share personal data with third parties, for example, where I have contracted with a supplier to carry out specific tasks. In such cases, I have carefully

selected which partners I work with. I take great care to ensure that I have a contract with the third party that states what they are allowed to do with the data I share with them. I ensure that they do not use your information in any way other than the task for which they have been contracted.

These third-party suppliers include, but are not limited to:

- **JotForm**, which I use to securely collect and store information through online forms such as intake forms and contracts. JotForm stores data in compliance with GDPR and provides secure, encrypted data storage.
- **Acuity Scheduling**, which I use to manage appointment bookings and payments securely. Acuity also complies with GDPR standards to protect your personal information.
- **My website hosting and management providers**, who help run and maintain my website securely.

I choose these providers carefully to ensure that your data is handled securely and in compliance with data protection laws. If you would like more information about these third parties or how your data is handled, please let me know.

Your rights

I try to be as open as I can be in terms of giving people access to their personal information. You have a right to ask me to delete your personal information, to limit how I use your personal information, or to stop processing your personal information. You also have a right to ask for a copy of any information that I hold about you and to object to the use of your personal data in some circumstances. You can read more about your rights at ico.org.uk/your-data-matters.

If I do hold information about you I will:

- give you a description of it and where it came from;
- tell you why I am holding it, tell you how long I will store your data and how I made this decision;
- tell you who it could be disclosed to;
- let you have a copy of the information in an intelligible form.

You can also ask me at any time to correct any mistakes there may be in the personal information I hold about you.

To make a request for any personal information I may hold about you, please put the request in writing addressing it to kate@kmccounseling.co.uk

If you have any complaint about how I handle your personal data please do not hesitate to get in touch with me by writing or emailing to the contact details given above. I would welcome any suggestions for improving my data protection procedures.

If you want to make a formal complaint about the way I have processed your personal information you can contact the ICO which is the statutory body that oversees data protection law in the UK. For more information go to ico.org.uk/make-a-complaint.

Data security

I take the security of the data I hold about you very seriously and as such I take every effort to make sure it is kept secure. All of your data is stored securely in password protected electronic files. At times I write handwritten notes, these are entered into your electronic records before being shredded within 48 hours of writing.

Additional information for website owners and employers

Visitors to my website

When someone visits my website, I use a third party service, Google Analytics and WordPress to collect standard internet log information and details of visitor behaviour patterns. I do this to find out things such as the number of visitors to the various parts of the site. This information is only processed in a way that does not identify anyone. I do not make, and do not allow Google Analytics or WordPress to make, any attempt to find out the identities of those visiting my website.

I use legitimate interests as my lawful basis for holding and using your personal information in this way when you visit my website.

I use Google Analytics so that I can continually improve my service to you, You can read Google Analytics privacy notice [here](#)

I use WordPress as the content management system for our website - find out about WordPress and data protection.

Like most websites we use cookies to help the site work more efficiently - find out about our use of cookies. [\[insert link\]](#).

No user-specific data is collected by me or any third party. If you fill in a form on my website, that data will be temporarily stored on the web host before being sent to me.