



GROUP SUPERVISION: Expectations and Conduct

Guidelines about expectations and the professional conduct of child advocates, child support workers and the supervising counsellor during group supervision sessions

This brief document outlines some of the expectations that Child Advocates (CAs), Child Support Workers (CSWs) and the supervising counsellor can have about entering into a group supervision arrangement. It also guides CAs and CSWs to exhibit professional conduct while debriefing within a group setting.

Expectations

Group supervision is funded by the *Women's Council for Domestic & Family Violence Services (WA)* through the Keeping Kids Safe Project so as to provide CAs and CSWs with a safe and supportive environment to discuss any challenges related to your role within a Refuge setting, with the view of seeking peer support.

The WCDFVS envisages that all CAs and CSW will benefit from the opportunity to gain therapeutic care through de-briefing, get to know each other a little better, and learn about other services through these sessions. Any conversation that is not constructive i.e. complaining about a colleague, judging a mother for her parenting style, blaming a child for their abuse etc. is not the intention of the sessions and will be discouraged by the supervising counsellor. These sessions are strictly for CAs and CSWs only.

CAs and CSWs

CAs and CSWs should be able to expect the following while in group supervision:

- To show respect towards the counselor and each other
- Demonstration of personal and professional boundaries
- Have equal opportunity to participate in the group supervisory session
- Listen to others when they are speaking
- Be reflective on their work with children and young people, and be open to being challenged and challenging each other in a supportive environment
- To enhance positive outcomes it is encouraged that workers refrain from negative or judgmental comments about clients, workers or their service
- Be encouraged to utilise grievance procedures and processes within their agency where relevant

Supervising Counsellor

- Show respect and have non-judgmental attitudes towards CAs and CSWs
- Ensure the ground rules are adhered to and encourage 'constructive discussion'
- Agree that information discussed within the sessions will be kept private and confidential, unless a high risk situation has been identified, at which point it will be reported to the CEO of the WCDFVS
- Follow the counseling codes of conduct and duty of care statements
- Draw on feminist ethics and a social justice framework in counselling





Professional conduct

It is vital to the well-being of the group that CAs and CSWs act with the optimum level of professionalism while in a group supervision setting. It is important that CAs and CSWs understand that they are not only representing themselves while in a session, that they are also representing their Refuge service.

The WCDFVS hopes that you will enjoy the Group Supervisory sessions and wish you all the best for the year ahead.

Agreement

I, _____
from the crisis accommodation service, _____

Have read and understood the *Group Supervision: Expectations and Conduct* form and agree to abide by these guidelines, especially where confidentiality is concerned.

I will be respectful towards others and seek to create a positive and supportive debriefing environment for my fellow child advocates and child support workers.

NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE

