

The AHPP Page

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AHPP is concerned with accrediting people who apply humanistic theories to their profession. At the moment, most of our members are counsellors, therapists and psychotherapists, with a few educators and people in management.

In recent months we have been looking at ways to enrol practitioners from other humanistic professions, and I shall be writing more about this in future issues of *S&S*. In the next issue there will also be a report on the AHPP conference, *The Use and Abuse of Power in Therapy*, which was held at the beginning of May.

AHPP has a Code of Standards and Ethics, including a complaints procedure. The following judgement is published in agreement with the AHPP Board as a final statement on the matters to which it pertains.

In the January 1992 issue of *S&S* it was reported that Geoffrey Whitfield had been expelled from membership of the AHPP. Mr Whitfield wishes it to be known that he had actually resigned in protest at the AHPP's procedures and practice.

Before his resignation, Mr Whitfield had complained regarding the unfairness of and deficiencies in the AHPP's complaints procedure and the manner in which individuals charged with implementing that procedure had acted. The allegations made against Mr Whitfield were originally dealt with under the com-

plaints procedures, prior to its revision. The AHPP's External Moderator, in a report concerning Mr Whitfield's case, recommended the original decision to expel him from membership be reversed as it was unsafe due to shortcomings in the procedure and the way in which these had been put into practice. Certain deficiencies were then rectified and new procedures implemented. The present AHPP Board regrets any unfairness or distress caused to Mr Whitfield by these deficiencies.

The AHPP Board, as advised in its External Moderator's Report and under its newly implemented procedure, set up a Tribunal to clarify the issues, hear the complaints and give Mr Whitfield an opportunity to clear his name. In negotiations to agree details of the Tribunal, agreement could not be fully reached with Mr Whitfield, who continued to dispute the manner in which matters were proceeding. Mr Whitfield eventually resigned from the AHPP.

The tribunal hearing proceeded, despite Mr Whitfield's absence and after his resignation, and found for the complainants. The Board acted on the findings of the Tribunal. Given these circumstances, and in particular Mr Whitfield's absence, the Board concedes that the situation was not wholly satisfactory, and formally notes Mr Whitfield's view that his expulsion from membership by the AHPP Board was in breach of his right to natural justice.