

most taxing and the most rewarding I have ever undertaken. What is more I have never felt more responsible to someone nor more in touch with my own integrity. And yet I have a strange feeling that the courage which we both required had little to do with professional standards and responsibility as we usually understand them, very little to do with the letter

of the ethical core and everything to do with its spirit. We were drawing pure water from the well of suffering which is also the well of life. Could it be that this is the very water we are in danger of poisoning in our zeal to become exemplary professionals with impeccable credentials and ever higher standards? The question does not go away.



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## ***Replacing Your Certificates***

*David Jones*

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**F**rom time to time *S&S* will publish material about organisations that control the training, accreditation and registration of therapists to check out how well they serve the interests of practitioners and clients.

### *The Problem*

Practitioners seeking accreditation with AHPP for example, or who want to register as a counsellor with an agency (such as the employee support agencies) have to produce certificates as proof of their credentials. Some magazines and journals also ask for proof of credentials before accepting an advertisement from a therapist.

What happens if you lose the certificates? Is it easy to get them replaced and what are the costs, and hassles?

### *What We Did*

We found somebody who had lost their certificates and got them to write to the people who issued them asking for replacements. The following is a list of the organisations asked (in alphabetical order):

AHPP (Association for Humanistic Psychology Practitioners) for 'certificate of admission as a full member in the category of psychotherapist';

BPS (The British Psychological Society)

for 'certificate of entry on the register of chartered psychologists';

IDHP (Institute for the Development of Human Potential) for 'diploma in humanistic psychology';

Karuna Institute, (a HIPS, Humanistic and Integrative Psychotherapy Section, member of UKCP) for a 'graduation certificate';

Oxford University for 'certificate of first degree';

UKCP (United Kingdom Council for Psychotherapy) for 'annual registration certificate'.

## Results

Ease of contact: only the IDHP posed any problem. They have no address and their contact person changes every so often. Persistent telephoning was needed to get an address. A reply eventually came on a University of Surrey letterhead! The other

organisations are listed in the telephone directory.

Hassle: the only organisation to ask a question was the Karuna Institute which wrote to ask for the year of graduation. The IDHP replacement is signed, but another signature is supposed to be obtained by the recipient themselves.

Speed of Response: all acknowledged the request within 10 days and certificates were replaced within a month.

Cost: only Oxford University made a charge: 'For each certificate attesting admission to any degree £4; hand-written certificates in black or blue ink £7; as above but highlighted in gold or silver £9; official photocopies 50p including p&p.'

## Conclusion

If you do lose your certificates don't panic. They are easy to replace.

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# The Future of Humanistic Psychotherapy

John Rowan

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In the *AHP Perspective*, published in San Francisco, the issue of January/February 1995 contains an article by Maureen O'Hara (who will be familiar to some readers because she came to England for our annual conference in 1990), sounding a 'wake up call for humanistic warriors'. She warns in particular of trends in the field of psychotherapy.

In California and New York, and increasingly elsewhere, managed care is

well under way. What this means is that insurers, healthcare purchasers and governmental agencies appear to have decided that in the interests of cost containment they must control therapeutic practice, controlling what therapists can and cannot do, for how long, and for what reasons. 'One managed care company I work with wants a symptom checklist and therapeutic intervention report after *every single session!*' And she says that most hu-