

## **Abstract.**

A qualitative study was conducted into clients' perceptions of therapist disclosure and non-disclosure, with particular reference to the perceived impact on the therapeutic relationship. For the purposes of this study, "disclosure" was defined as the therapist choosing to share, or withhold, factual, biographical information about their own lives during the therapeutic encounter. It did not include affect responses. A grounded theory method was used to analyse data collected through a series of 11 semi-structured interviews. Co-researchers reported incidents of disclosure and non-disclosure to have an overall beneficial, detrimental or prohibitive effect. This was found to be dependent on several intervening factors.