

Abstract

With a rise in serious case reviews and the inception of the 'safeguarding is everybody's business' mantra, professionals working within statutory services, *including* integrative psychotherapists, have a duty to recognise and respond to potential safeguarding issues when working with adult clients who place children at risk. This research study aimed to develop a deeper understanding of the emotions evoked within the therapist when undertaking child safeguarding in adult psychotherapy and to develop an understanding of the ways, *if any*, these emotions influence the therapist's decision making processes.

Method: Within this phenomenological study, six semi structured interviews were conducted. Participants were experienced at working within a systemic, relational and/or developmental framework within statutory services. After applying epoché and horizontalization, textural/structural descriptions were tied together to make an overall description of the experience.

Findings: Those interviewed delved into the complexities of how their emotional responses *are* intricately entwined in each safeguarding decision. This research could be beneficial to integrative psychotherapists working within statutory services, providing an opportunity for therapists to consider and integrate the evoked emotions within safeguarding that are often denied within policy and practice. Integrating these emotions could support and improve safeguarding practices, enabling better outcomes for children at risk from harm.