

1.0. Abstract

This research is designed to explore the ways in which three groups; experienced Gestalt psychotherapists, trainee Gestalt psychotherapists and lawyers, identify and examine the dilemmas in a case study. The hypothesis being whether phenomenology is compatible with the legal/ethical framework for Gestalt clinical practice and the implications for the training of Gestalt psychotherapists.

The research methodology was qualitative, using a phenomenological approach to data analysis by classifying the data from taped transcripts into categories, then reducing these selections into more precise descriptions of the experience.

The result showed that there are both convergent and divergent approaches and views between the lawyers and the psychotherapists, the law was figure for the lawyers most of the time, and rarely figure for either the trainee or experienced psychotherapists. Professional ethics were part of the field for the Gestalt therapists, the lawyers were not aware of any psychotherapy ethical codes.

The interpretation of the results indicate that law and psychotherapy need to be more integrated into the awareness of psychotherapists, trainers and supervisors. Lawyers, too are unaware of the context of a psychotherapist's work. Consequently, there is a need for both professions to be aware of how their respective profession's may be enriched by the others'.