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Institiúid Teicneolaíochta Leitir Ceanainn
Letterkenny Institute of Technology

COUNSELLING SERVICE

CONFIDENTIALITY

The Student Counselling Service is a confidential service. However, conditions of confidentiality are subject to the Freedom of Information Act 1997 Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003 and Child Care Act 1991. Such exemptions to confidentiality include;

- If the Student Counsellor is alerted to a child at risk, as defined by the Child Care Act the Student Counsellor has an ethical responsibility to act appropriately (see Guidelines on Management of Clients Presenting with a History of Childhood Abuse/Sexual Abuse).
- If the Student Counsellor assesses that a student is at significant risk of harming his/her self or others then the Student Counsellor has a duty of care to breach agreed confidentiality.
- The records maintained by the Student Counselling Service may be subpoenaed by a court of law.

Under certain circumstance confidentiality may be extended to include medical professionals where the Counsellor assesses a medical concern. This should ideally only happen with the permission of the student. Students who have concerns regarding this extension of confidentiality are encouraged to discuss this with the Student Counsellor.

If the Student Counsellor receives a request for information from within the College e.g. academic/administrative/support staff, a response will only be given once informed consent is provided by the individual student. In the event of an external contact e.g. specialist/family/friend no information can be provided by the Student Counselling Service without the direct and informed consent of the student.