

# Counsellors and Psychotherapists (Regulation) Bill

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## CONTENTS

- 1 Regulation of mental health practitioners
- 2 Code of ethics for registered counsellors, therapists and psychotherapists
- 3 Complaints and disciplinary procedures
- 4 Short title and commencement



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**B I L L**

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Provide that the Health Professionals Council be the regulatory body for counsellors and psychotherapists; and for connected purposes.

**B**E IT ENACTED by the Queen’s most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:—

**1 Regulation of mental health practitioners**

- (1) Section 60 of the Health Act 1999 (Regulation of health care and associated professions) is amended as follows.
- (2) After section 60(2)(ca) the following paragraph is inserted—
  - “(cb) the professions regulated by the Counsellors and Psychotherapists (Regulation) Act 2013,”. 5

**2 Code of ethics for registered counsellors, therapists and psychotherapists**

- (1) Counsellors, therapists and psychotherapists shall be registered by the Health and Care Professions Council, formerly known as the Health Professions Council, “the Council”. 10
- (2) The Council shall prepare and publish a code of ethics (“the code”) for registered counsellors, therapists and psychotherapists.
- (3) The code must include a prohibition on gay to straight conversion therapy.
- (4) Agreement to abide by the code shall be a condition of admission to the register maintained by the Council under the Health and Social Work Professions Order 2001 (“the register”). 15

**3 Complaints and disciplinary procedures**

- (1) Where a patient complains to the Council that a registered counsellor, therapist or psychotherapist has breached the code, the Council must investigate that complaint. 20

- (2) A practitioner found by the Council to have breached the code shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Council, including temporary or permanent removal from the register. A breach of that section of the code relating to prohibition of gay to straight conversion therapy shall result in permanent removal from the register.

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#### **4 Short title and commencement**

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Counsellors and Psychotherapists (Regulation) Act 2013.
- (2) This Act comes into force at the end of the period of 6 months beginning with the day on which it is passed.

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To provide that the Health Professionals Council be the regulatory body for counsellors and psychotherapists; and for connected purposes.

*Presented by Geraint Davies,  
supported by  
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Chris Evans and Mr Mark Williams.*

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*Ordered, by The House of Commons,  
to be Printed, 23 October 2013.*

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PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON – THE STATIONERY OFFICE LIMITED  
Printed in the United Kingdom by  
The Stationery Office Limited  
£3.00

Bill 120

(35559)

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ISBN 978-0-215-06430-1



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