



The National Registers of Communication Professionals
working with Deaf and Deafblind People

Fitness to Practice Procedure

**Consultation Draft
July 2022**

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Introduction

1. The National Registers of Communication Professionals working with Deaf and Deafblind People ('NRCPD') is established to promote standards of British Sign Language interpreters and other professions working with d/Deaf* and deafblind people and to regulate those professions in order to protect the public. NRCPD's public protection responsibilities are to maintain registers of the relevant language service professionals, to set professional conduct standards by our Code of Conduct and to investigate reports of misconduct i.e. potential breaches of the Code. NRCPD takes appropriate steps to improve practice and protect the public where breaches of the Code are found.
2. This document explains the Fitness to Practice Procedure that the NRCPD will follow when a report is received about misconduct by a Registrant or Regulated Trainee.
3. The Fitness to Practice Procedure should be used in conjunction with the Code of Conduct.
4. The NRCPD Code of Conduct applies to all current Registrants and Regulated Trainees. Registrants/Trainees agree by contract to abide by it on first registration with one of our registers and thereafter annually on renewal.
5. The Fitness to Practice Procedure is the procedure we use to deal with reported breaches of the Code of Conduct in order to improve practice and protect the public. This ensures that all allegations of breaches of the Code of Conduct are considered fairly by due process, are independently decided and that professionals are not arbitrarily sanctioned.
6. The procedure is intended to identify whether a breach of the code has occurred, if so whether a professional's practice is still affected, and what should be done to prevent risk to the public from that misconduct by that professional in future.
7. It is not intended to be punitive but to look forward at preventing future misconduct by either improving the individual's practice, by restricting their practice for a period or in the most serious cases to remove them from the registers.
8. It is consistent with the relevant laws and principles that apply to professional regulation in the UK.

9. It is not the procedure used to remove people from the register for failing to meet any

of the other minimum requirements or contractual undertakings (such as Continuous Professional Development compliance or paying the registration fee).

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