

Frequently Asked Questions for Countersignatories

February 2025

What is a countersignatory?

All BPC Registrants must have a countersignatory for registration; this is an important safeguard in protecting the public and must be carefully considered. The countersignatory must have heard their work and can agree they do not know any reason why they cannot continue their registration with the BPC.

The countersignatory must have regularly discussed your clinical work with you in an appropriate setting and can agree they do not know any reason why you cannot continue to be registered. Your countersignatory may be contacted if there are any concerns about your Fitness to Practise and will be contacted if you are selected for the CPD audit.

Who can act as a countersignatory?

In almost **all** cases we would expect your countersignatory to be your supervisor (individual or peer).

We would expect that in most cases your countersignatory would be a BPC Registrant. If there is not a BPC Registrant who knows your work well enough, your countersignatory must have a sufficiently rigorous psychoanalytic or psychodynamic training and be regulated at an appropriate level with another body. For example, BACP countersignatories must be accredited members.

As per [Standard 7](#) your level of supervision must be appropriate to the work you are doing and therefore your supervisor or senior colleague countersigning your work must have the appropriate training and experience with the patients and intensity you are working at.

The countersignatory cannot be a partner, close friend or relative.

Newly qualified Registrants are expected to have a supervisor / countersignatory who is appropriately experienced and more senior than them. Usually, they would be at least 5 years post qualified.

What if there is a disagreement with my employer about who is an appropriate supervisor and/or countersignatory?

Contact us for support at hello@bpc.org.uk You as the Registrant need to be happy that your supervision is appropriate for the work you do. Your supervisor and countersignatory must be trained to work in the same modality and to the same depth you are working, and they should be more highly qualified and experienced. For example, an adult psychoanalytic psychotherapist must be supervised by an adult psychoanalytic psychotherapist or psychoanalyst.

If I agree to act as a countersignatory, what does that mean?

Agreeing to be someone's countersignatory is a serious matter. It means you know their clinical work to an appropriate level to be able to confirm you believe they remain Fit to Practise.

If you agree to be a BPC Registrant's countersignatory you are agreeing that you have regularly heard their clinical work and have no concerns about their Fitness to Practise, and do not know of any reason why they cannot continue their registration with the BPC.

If I agree to act as a countersignatory, what do I need to do?

If you agree to be someone's countersignatory and have no concerns, you can confirm with the Registrant they can use your details as part of their registration or renewal with the BPC. You do not need to do anything else unless the BPC contacts you for further information.

If the Registrant is selected as part of our CPD audit, you will be contacted to confirm their audit form and that you are happy to act as their countersignatory.

If someone has asked me to be a countersignatory and I have concerns, what should I do?

If you have concerns about a BPC Registrant and their Fitness to Practise, please let us know as soon as possible. You can email us at hello@bpc.org.uk or call us on 0207 561 9240. You can find further information about raising concerns about BPC Registrants [here](#).

What should I do if I am aware that a Registrant has submitted my details as a countersignatory without my consent?

Please let the BPC know if your details have been provided as a countersignatory without your consent. You can email us at hello@bpc.org.uk or call us on 0207 561 9240.