

BRITISH FOCUSING TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

MEDIATION PROCEDURE

BFTA believes that the process of Focusing is in itself an instrument of mediation. It aims to provide a welcoming and positive structure in which both parties can find appropriate ways forward.

1. Focusing clients and students are actively encouraged to be aware of their felt sense of the situation with their teacher or practitioner. If something does not feel right for either party, they are encouraged to spend some time Focusing on it and to be open to any steps that might need to happen to address the situation.
2. If resolving the situation involves addressing something in the teaching or the behaviour of the BFTA member, the Focusing student/client is encouraged to bring it to their attention. The member is encouraged to listen openly to the student/client's felt sense of the situation and to engage interactively to find a mutually respectful way forward.
3. If the situation still feels unresolved, the two people could agree to invite a mediator to listen to each of them (either together or separately) and to hold a safe and neutral space. This person will then review the situation impartially in a joint meeting to move towards a resolution. Mediation is voluntary and rests upon the willingness of all people involved to try to find an understanding that is mutually agreeable. This process can be flexible and responsive to the needs of the people involved.
4. If either party needs help in finding a mediator they can seek the help of the BFTA chair.
5. If the Focusing student/client is not satisfied by the mediation process and the issue appears to be one of ethical practice, then a panel made up of two BFTA members appointed by the BFTA chair will review the complaint and will recommend an

outcome consistent with the Code of Ethical Practice and Section 8 of BFTA's Articles of Association.

6. A record of the outcome will be kept by the BFTA Chair.

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