

Role play – Tackling Difficulties

Supervisee:

It was identified at the Mid-Placement Visit (MPV) 10 weeks ago that you needed to develop your 'Therapeutic and Working Alliance', 'Psychological Assessment' and 'Supervision' competencies. Potential placement failure was discussed openly at this stage.

A plan of action and further written goals were agreed between yourself, your supervisor and Clinical Tutor. You said that you were clear about what you needed to do in order to pass the placement and feel that you have achieved that.

Your supervisor has expressed some ongoing concerns about 'Therapeutic and Working Alliance' skills during the last 10 weeks, and has given you some specific feedback about what you need to do in order to meet the minimum standard, but generally, you've felt that you've been on the right track with things. Your supervisor has fed back from the video recordings they have reviewed with you, that you continue to struggle to sit with the client's emotional distress. You aren't really 100% clear what this means, but you didn't dare say so to your supervisor, as you are concerned about failing the placement.

Last week, you told your supervisor that you have been having relationship difficulties for some time and that an elderly family member is critically ill in hospital. You've been feeling a bit fragile for some time, but have felt that you have to keep soldiering on. You've got supervision in a few minutes and you've a funny feeling that something isn't right.

Your supervisor tells you that you have FAILED the placement - How will you manage this conversation?