Acceptable usage policy

The main purpose of these terms is to provide a friendly, supportive and considerate environment where advisers can share experience and expertise, and to allow us to take action if anyone breaches these terms.

Although areas of the rightsnet website may be viewed simply by visiting, in order to post a message in the discussion forum you first need to register.

The forums are only for the use of advisers and it is a condition of registration that you provide your full name, details of your job and the organisation you work for, and a valid email address.

Whilst we will consider applications for registration from those not working in advice - for example benefit administrators, freelance trainers and consultants - we request that you email us in the first instance, via the "contact us" button at the top of every rightsnet page, or via rightsnet@asa.org.uk for details of the further information we will need to support your application for registration. If your application for registration is approved, your continued use of the forum is on the understanding that contributions you make further the aims of the site - to support the work of advice workers working on behalf of claimants.

NB - We do not under any circumstances accept registrations from individuals seeking advice about their own situations.

We reserve the right to terminate your registration if we learn that you have provided false or misleading registration information. Postings without valid details will be automatically deleted.

If you register, these terms of service will govern your use of the discussion forums. By completing the registration process, you are indicating your agreement to be bound by these terms of use.

The views expressed in the posts you will find in the discussion forums belong solely to their respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of rightsnet, lasa and/or our funders.

Please remember that the open and real-time nature of the forums makes it impossible for us to vouch for the validity of any content posted. As such, we are not responsible for any messages posted nor the consequences of following any advice offered within posts. It is solely your responsibility to evaluate the accuracy, completeness and usefulness of all opinions, advice, and other information provided through the forums.
By using the forums, you agree to the following -

- You will not post any material that is knowingly false, misleading, inaccurate or cannot be substantiated.
- You will not post any material that is unlawful, harmful, threatening, abusive, harassing, defamatory, vulgar, obscene, libelous, or otherwise objectionable.
- You will not behave in an abusive manner, and will not harass, threaten, nor attack anyone. If you disagree with someone's posting or comment, don't attack that person...agree to disagree, respectfully.
- You will not post messages that are clearly outside of the stated topic of any forum nor disrupt a forum by, for example, deliberately posting repeated or irrelevant messages or copies of identical messages.
- You will not use the forums in a manner that adversely affects the availability of its resources to other users.
- You will, if asked by a representative of the forums, cease posting any content deemed to breach these terms by the moderators of the forums.

You should remember that you are legally responsible for what you write. By participating in a discussion you undertake to indemnify us against any liability arising from any obscene, defamatory, seditious, blasphemous or other actionable statement published by you in the forums, or any breach of confidentiality, copyright or other intellectual property rights, and against all damages, losses, claims and costs (including without limitation fines and expenses arising out of or incurred in conducting or defending any proceedings) arising from any such actionable statements.

We reserve the right, at our sole discretion, to immediately, without notice, suspend or terminate your registration with, or ability to access, the discussion forums upon any breach by you of the terms of use.

You are responsible for maintaining the confidentiality of your username and password. You shall be responsible for all uses of your registration, whether or not authorised by you. You agree to immediately notify us of any unauthorised use of your registration or password.

If you find any posts in the forum to be offensive or objectionable, please contact us by email at rightsnet@asa.org.uk. If we determine that removal of a post or posts is necessary, we will make reasonable efforts to do so in a timely manner.

We may modify these terms at any time, and such modifications shall be effective immediately upon posting of the modified terms on the site. You agree to review the terms periodically to be aware of such modifications and your continued access or use of the sites shall be deemed your conclusive acceptance of the modified terms.

If you do not agree to changes in the terms of service as they may occur, please arrange to terminate your registration by notifying rightsnet/asa of your unwillingness to accept the changes to the terms of service and by discontinuing your use of the discussion forums.

Last modified - June 2004