



GROUNDING FUTURES

GUIDING YOUR NEXT CHAPTER
THROUGH REFLECTION

SAFEGUARDING POLICY Grounded Futures Trading name of AVJ Coaching and Consultancy Ltd (Company No. 16964022)

1. Purpose of This Policy Grounded Futures is committed to promoting the safety and wellbeing of children, young people, and vulnerable adults. Although Grounded Futures is a non-statutory, non-therapeutic service, safeguarding remains a core responsibility. This policy outlines how safeguarding concerns are recognised, reported, and managed.
2. Scope of the Service Grounded Futures provides specialist coaching, consultancy, and reflective support to prospective adopters and prospective foster carers. The service draws on over 10 years of social work experience in adoption, fostering, kinship care, and children in care. Grounded Futures does not conduct assessments, make decisions about suitability, replace therapeutic or clinical interventions, or hold statutory safeguarding powers.
3. Safeguarding Principles Grounded Futures follows the principles of promoting welfare, preventing harm, acting proportionately, sharing information appropriately, and working within legal and ethical boundaries. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
4. Responsibilities of Grounded Futures Grounded Futures will:
 - Maintain awareness of safeguarding risks.
 - Respond appropriately to concerns raised during sessions.
 - Record safeguarding concerns factually and securely.
 - Share information when necessary to protect a child or vulnerable adult.
 - Follow relevant legislation and guidance.
 - Signpost clients to statutory or therapeutic services when needed. Grounded Futures will not investigate concerns or make decisions about risk. These responsibilities lie with statutory agencies.

5. Recognising Safeguarding Concerns may include disclosures, observations of worrying behaviour, information suggesting a child or vulnerable adult may be at risk, or indicators of emotional, physical, sexual, or neglect-related harm. Concerns about a client's capacity to provide safe care will also be taken seriously.
6. Procedures for Responding to Safeguarding Concerns Step 1: Immediate Safety
If there is an immediate risk of harm, emergency services will be contacted.

Step 2: Listen and Acknowledge If a client shares a concern, Grounded Futures will listen without judgement, avoid leading questions, reassure appropriately, and explain that confidentiality cannot be maintained where safety is at risk.

Step 3: Record A factual, dated record will be made, including what was said or observed, who was involved, any actions taken, and the rationale for decisions. Records will be stored securely.

Step 4: Report Concerns will be shared with the appropriate agency, which may include Local Authority Children's Services, Adult Safeguarding Teams, emergency services, or the client's adoption or fostering agency. Information will be shared on a need-to-know basis only.

Step 5: Follow-Up Grounded Futures may confirm that the concern has been passed to the correct agency, continue to offer reflective support within professional boundaries, or step back if involvement could interfere with statutory processes.

7. Information Sharing Information will be shared when a child or vulnerable adult is at risk of harm, when legally required, when necessary to prevent a crime, or when requested by statutory agencies. Information will be shared proportionately and securely.
8. Boundaries and Limitations Grounded Futures does not provide therapy, complete assessments, influence statutory decisions, replace social workers or medical professionals, or hold case responsibility. Clients remain responsible for engaging with their adoption or fostering agency and any therapeutic services.
9. Training and Professional Development Grounded Futures will maintain up-to-date safeguarding knowledge through regular training, professional reading, reflective practice, and awareness of changes in legislation and guidance.
10. Confidentiality is maintained except where a child or vulnerable adult is at risk, a crime may be committed, or disclosure is required by law. Clients will be informed when information must be shared unless doing so increases risk.

11. Policy Review This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if legislation, guidance, or the nature of the service changes.