



Can I take a break from practice (Registered Member)?

AFSP and UKCP recognise that it is sometimes necessary to take a break from practice. In the event of the need for extended periods away from practice, the UKCP and AFSP require you to take responsibility for informing both organisations of both the start date and projected end date for your break in practice. The period of leave would be considered and the hours required for your Continuous Professional Development (CPD), pro-rated. Breaks in practice are effective from the date notified and cannot be backdated.

For breaks in practice (of no more than one year), you must inform the UKCP and AFSP Registration Committee by email that you are not seeing clients. Your registration with the UKCP will be suspended during this period, however, you must maintain your AFSP membership. The AFSP recognises that, depending on the circumstances for your break in practice, you may experience financial difficulties. As such, membership fees will be charged on a reduced basis for the period in question along with a possible payment plan to help you maintain your member status. Please discuss this with the membership team when you advise of your break in practice at hello@theafsp.org

Whilst taking a break in practice from UKCP, you are required to keep up with re- accreditation requirements as best you can. As an AFSP member this could be done by reading the publications from AFSP (e.g.: Context and the Journal), attending discounted AFSP webinars and accessing the resources available on our website. In the event you have experienced 'lean times,' (e.g. maternity/paternity) you are advised to address this and discuss your CPD plan with your supervisor (in relation to future practice) in your ongoing Professional Development Plan - section 7. The Committee are also available to discuss and advise on your CPD plan.

You must advise both UKCP and AFSP prior to the date you return to clinical practice and to reinstate your Clinical Membership for Professional Registration.

If you take a break in practice exceeding one year or cease to be an AFSP member you will need to submit a re-registration application. Please note that there is an application fee association with this action.

Can I take a break from practice (Other Member Categories)?

AFSP recognise that we all can be subject to matters outside of our control and that maintaining membership during this period can prove difficult. Whilst you are not required to maintain any membership or developmental requirements, the community can be a comforting resource. As such, as with the registered members and depending on the circumstances, we will also provide the same discounted access to membership along with possible payment plans to support you during this period.

Please contact the membership team to discuss this further at hello@theafsp.org



Advice for those on maternity/paternity leave

Should you be offering reduced practice during this period you must maintain your UKCP registration and AFSP membership. The same support from AFSP is still available during this time.

If you intend to take a full break from practice, please refer to the guidance above (registered members only).

If you are operating within a reduced practice status, we recognise that your clinical hours and supervision will likely be reduced along with any CPD attendance at events during the leave period. Please note this on your CPD submission along with the break in practice period. We advise that when you return to work you discuss your CPD needs with your supervisor and create a CPD plan going forward. Your supervisor must refer to this in their Supervisor Reference.

Reasons for a Break in Practice

Whilst the following list is not exhaustive it does provide indication to the areas that would be acceptable for a break in practice.

- Maternity/Paternity leave
- Adoption
- Parental leave
- Long-term illness
- Death of family member or close relative
- Short term disablement because of an accident
- Carer's leave
- Redundancy/unemployment
- Extended leave (e.g. travelling)

If you are unsure of eligibility, please contact the membership team at hello@theafsp.org