

**Using YouTube appropriately**

***Practice* Based Scenario**

**About this document**

This document is designed to take you through a practice-based scenario to help you reflect on what you might do if faced with a similar situation. It can be used to guide your thoughts and prompt discussion with your colleagues. Working through this document counts towards your continuing professional development (CPD). Your reflections on this document are not assessed and you do not have to send your responses to the RCSLT.

You can work through it on your own, with a colleague or supervisor, or in groups, eg as part of an RCSLT Hub or Clinical Excellence Network.

This document is broken into six parts:

1. **The scenario:** for you to read
2. **The issues to consider:** for you to gather your thoughts on practice issues relating to this scenario
3. **Next steps:** for you to plan out what you would need to do next
4. **Prompts for consideration:** RCSLT prompts for further consideration
5. **Sources of further information:** links to professional guidance
6. **Update your CPD diary:** for you to do
7. **The scenario**

**There is a highly vocal individual who purports that all social skills work for people with autism is insulting to the autistic community, (believing it is society that needs to be more accepting).**

**They record regular blogs on YouTube and have named you as an example of the problem.**



**What do you do in this scenario?**

1. **The issues to consider**

**What do you need to consider?**

Think about the above scenario and its implications and jot down your notes about issues you may need to consider. Please feel free to use extra sheets of paper if you need. Or, if you are in a group, you may like to record on a whiteboard or flipchart.

1. **Next steps**

**What steps do you think you need to take next?**

1. **Prompts for consideration**

If you are faced with a situation like this it is important to remain calm and work through the issues methodically, relating them to your context – such as policies and procedures under which you work. You would need to be sure of your professional position before taking any action. This particular scenario is a breach of confidentiality and a possible case of defamation.

It is recommended that you think about the following prompt questions and formulate a considered strategy to deal with the problem.

Remember that if you are faced with a similar situation you will need to think about it in relation to the frameworks within which you work, such as the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) Standards, RCSLT professional guidance and resources, local and national policies and also policies of your employer (or your own policies if practising independently).

Please note that this list is not exhaustive and does not constitute legal advice.

**Prompt questions to consider**

1. Are there legal implications you need to report (eg issues of confidentiality or defamation)?
2. Are there issues around information governance?
3. Is there local guidance about this type of scenario?
4. Is there a need to report concerns or escalate the problem?
5. If you are practising independently, do you have a social media policy?
6. Is there a risk to your professional standing, that of your employer, or to your profession?
7. Where did the blogger find information about yourself/your service, and how is your service for people with ASC currently represented to the public/in the media?
8. Who is the audience for the video blog likely to be?
9. Is the video likely to spread? For example, to the media? If so, might you be asked to respond?
10. Can you report the video blog to YouTube?
11. Is the video blog likely to lead to a reduction in your clients (if practising independently) or have an impact on the credibility of the service you work for?

**Possible next steps**

1. Report the situation to your line manager or supervisor or, if you are working independently, speak to other professionals in your networks to get their opinion.
2. Research policies/guidelines on personal involvement in issues like this.
   * If you are employed, seek out your employer’s guidelines.
   * If you are independently employed, consider writing a social media policy if you do not already have one.
3. Speak to the RCSLT if you still have concerns.
4. Consider reporting via YouTube in order to get the specific posts removed or make them private.
5. Consider how you represent your service to members of the public and in the media (including social media).
6. **Sources of further information**

**The following information in the professional accountability and autonomy, and professional guidance sections of the RCSLT website is also particularly relevant:**

1 - [Promote and safeguard the interests of service users and carers](https://www.rcslt.org/professional-autonomy-and-accountability-guidance#section-5)

2 - [Communicate appropriately and effectively](https://www.rcslt.org/professional-autonomy-and-accountability-guidance#section-6)

5 - [Respect confidentiality](https://www.rcslt.org/professional-autonomy-and-accountability-guidance#section-9)

6 - [Manage risk](https://www.rcslt.org/professional-autonomy-and-accountability-guidance#section-10)

[Communications Technology](https://www.rcslt.org/communications-technology)

[Information governance](https://www.rcslt.org/information-governance)

1. **Update your CPD diary**

Working through this scenario counts towards your continuing professional development (CPD). Once you have completed this scenario, please record this learning and your reflections in your CPD diary.