

Beware of international websites offering to list you as a therapist !

It is easy to inadvertently transgress the laws of other countries when working online. Here's a perfect example:

It all began with an exciting and innocuous invitation to join a therapy portal and get more clients – something most of us want and need. Here's a part of the invitation received on 23rd July 2015:

Are You Doing What It Takes To Get Your Therapy Practice Noticed Online? Over 70% of new patients are using the Internet to research and find their therapist. Are they finding you? At TherapyTribe, we combine geo-targeted social networking with top search engine results to get your therapy practice noticed online. As part of the largest network of mental health support communities on the web, TherapyTribe connects you directly to patients in need.

For a limited time, **TherapyTribe** - professional therapist directory invites you to try **3 months free** listing service. TherapyTribe is an international directory, with a strong presence in the United States, Canada, UK, and Australia.

Sounds perfect ! So what is wrong with this ?
 The answer lies within my reply.

Here is my reply to them:

Message:

I was very surprised to received this rather inappropriate invitation to join TherapyTribe. As a US based company/platform, you will be aware that you are required to be compliant with US Federal HIPAA rules. It is not legal to work cross-state borders within the US without State registration, let alone encourage a therapist from overseas to provide therapy online from out of state. In targeting me you will have been aware that I am UK based and unlikely to have the required State registration (required differently for each State). Your marketing shows a blatant lack of knowledge of the US Federal Law, and could in fact lead those who are unaware into working illegally within US jurisdiction without the correct certification and HIPAA compliance and consequently these therapists would be open to a complaint to their professional body, which could signal the end of their professional career.

AttorneyTribe » Professional

WebTribes Inc.
 Carlsbad, CA 92009

Any ACTO listed training course to work therapeutically online would cover this sort of information as part of the basics. It would also equip you with the kind of information that you would need to set up an online practice, how and where you can and cannot practice and how to work safely and securely.. Don't be one of those who puts themselves at risk through simply not knowing the rules and laws of another country, as well as the rules and laws of the UK. Do the training and then join ACTO which is the UK based association listing those qualified to work online.

Useful web information : ACTO The Association for counselling and therapy online
<http://www.acto-uk.org/>

PWT's page on security and confidentiality online

<http://pwtraining.com/resources-for-working-online/security-the-skype-issue/>

PWT's test your digital skills QUIZ for you to work out how much training you might need

<http://pwtraining.com/quiz-test-your-digital-skills/>

PWT, 83 Downsway, Southwick, West Sussex BN42 4WE



01273 700 911



info@PWTraining.com



www.PWTraining.com