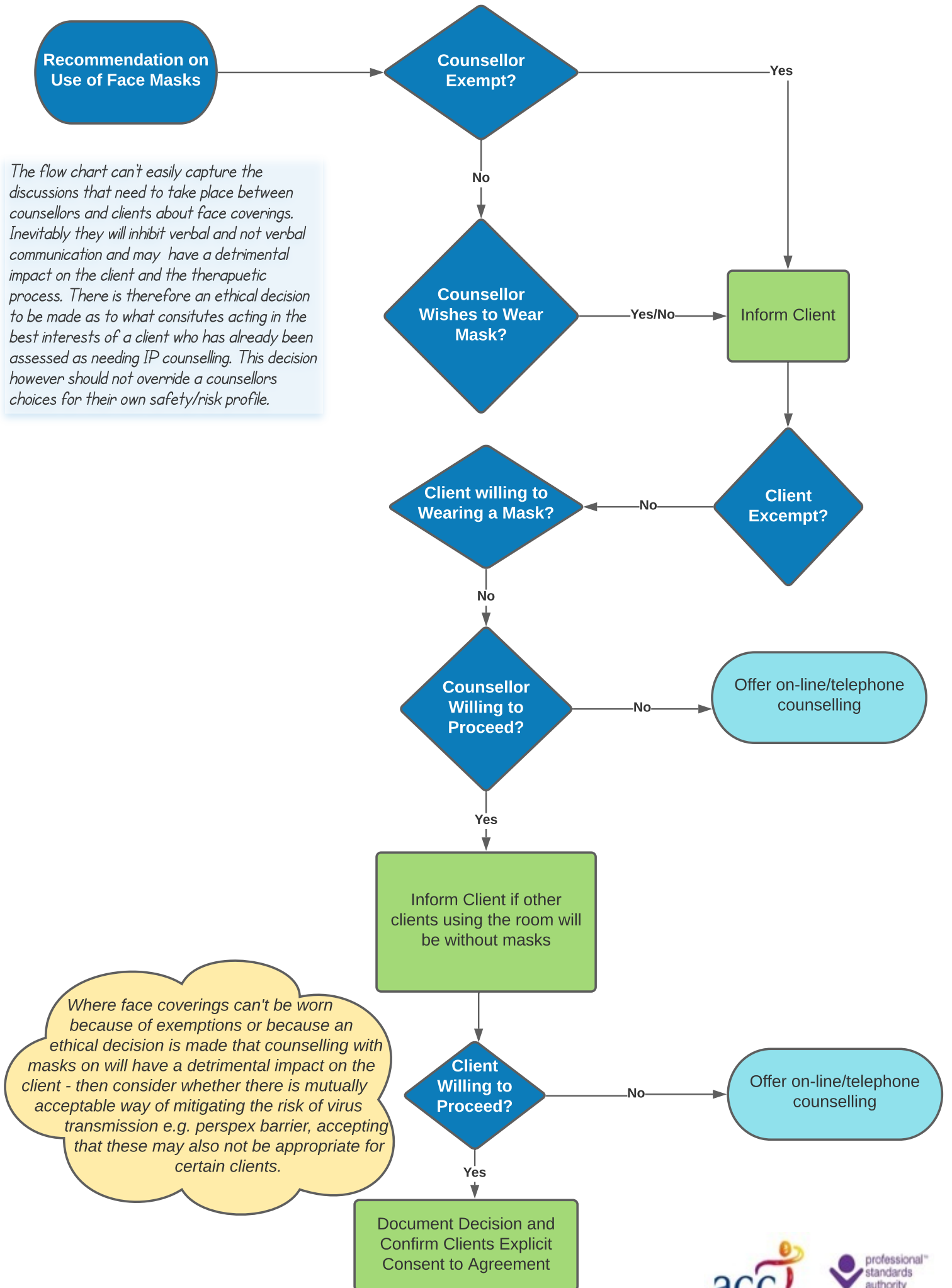


**Recommendation on Use of Face Masks**

*The flow chart can't easily capture the discussions that need to take place between counsellors and clients about face coverings. Inevitably they will inhibit verbal and not verbal communication and may have a detrimental impact on the client and the therapeutic process. There is therefore an ethical decision to be made as to what constitutes acting in the best interests of a client who has already been assessed as needing IP counselling. This decision however should not override a counsellors choices for their own safety/risk profile.*



*Where face coverings can't be worn because of exemptions or because an ethical decision is made that counselling with masks on will have a detrimental impact on the client - then consider whether there is mutually acceptable way of mitigating the risk of virus transmission e.g. perspex barrier, accepting that these may also not be appropriate for certain clients.*