

## Mental Health/Behavioral Health Professionals in Minnesota

### Scope of Practice Summary

PROFESSION	LICENSING BOARD	SCOPE OF PRACTICE
Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors (LPCC)	MN Board of Behavioral Health and Therapy  <a href="http://www.bbht.state.mn.us/Home/tabid/91/Default.aspx">www.bbht.state.mn.us/Home/tabid/91/Default.aspx</a>	Practices under supervision. Four-thousand (4,000) supervised post-degree clinical practice hours are required for licensure. The scope of practice of a licensed professional clinical counselor includes, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• implementation of professional counseling treatment interventions including evaluation, treatment planning, assessment, and referral;</li> <li>• direct counseling services to individuals, groups, and families;</li> <li>• counseling strategies that effectively respond to multicultural populations;</li> <li>• knowledge of relevant laws and ethics impacting practice;</li> <li>• crisis intervention;</li> <li>• consultation; and</li> <li>• program evaluation and applied research.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">(M.S. 148B.50)</p>
Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC)	MN Board of Behavioral Health and Therapy  <a href="http://www.bbht.state.mn.us/Home/tabid/91/Default.aspx">www.bbht.state.mn.us/Home/tabid/91/Default.aspx</a>	Practices under supervision. Two-thousand (2,000) supervised post-degree clinical practice hours are required for licensure. The scope of practice of a licensed professional counselor includes, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• implementation of professional counseling treatment interventions including evaluation, treatment planning, assessment, and referral;</li> <li>• direct counseling services to individuals, groups, and families;</li> <li>• counseling strategies that effectively respond to multicultural populations;</li> <li>• knowledge of relevant laws and ethics impacting practice;</li> <li>• crisis intervention;</li> <li>• consultation; and</li> <li>• program evaluation and applied research.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">(M.S. 148B.50)</p>

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PROFESSION	LICENSING BOARD	SCOPE OF PRACTICE
Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT)	MN Board of Marriage and Family Therapy  <a href="http://www.bbht.state.mn.us/Home/tabid/91/Default.aspx">www.bbht.state.mn.us/Home/tabid/91/Default.aspx</a>	Practices under supervision for two years, then practices independently. Marriage and Family Therapists have graduate training (a Master's or Doctoral degree) in marriage and family therapy and at least two years of clinical experience before licensure. Marriage and Family Therapists are mental health professionals trained in psychotherapy and family systems, and licensed to diagnose and treat mental and emotional disorders within the context of marriage, couples and family systems. Marriage and Family Therapy is recognized as a "core" mental health profession, along with psychiatry, psychology, social work and psychiatric nursing.  <div style="text-align: right;">(M.S. 148B.29)</div>
Psychiatrist (MD)	MN Board of Medical Practice  <a href="http://www.state.mn.us/portal/mn/jsp/home.do?agency=BMP">www.state.mn.us/portal/mn/jsp/home.do?agency=BMP</a>	Practices independently without supervision. A psychiatrist is a physician certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.  <div style="text-align: right;">(M.S. 147)</div>
Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist (RN, CNS) – Adult psychiatric certification	MN Board of Nursing  <a href="http://www.state.mn.us/portal/mn/jsp/home.do?agency=NursingBoard">www.state.mn.us/portal/mn/jsp/home.do?agency=NursingBoard</a>	Practices independently under a collaborative agreement with a physician. May prescribe drugs and therapeutic devices. May function as a direct care provider, case manager, consultant, educator, and researcher. May accept referrals from, consult with, cooperate with, or refer to all other types of health care providers, including but not limited to physicians, chiropractors, podiatrists, and dentists. Requires completion of no less than 30 hours of formal study in the prescribing of psychotropic medications and medications to treat their side effects which included instruction in health assessment, psychotropic classifications, psychopharmacology, indications, dosages, contraindications, side effects, and evidence of application.  <div style="text-align: right;">(M.S. 148.171)</div>

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PROFESSION	LICENSING BOARD	SCOPE OF PRACTICE
Certified Clinical Nurse Specialist (RN, CNS) – Child/adolescent psychiatric certification	MN Board of Nursing <a href="http://www.state.mn.us/portal/mn/jsp/home.do?agency=NursingBoard">www.state.mn.us/portal/mn/jsp/home.do?agency=NursingBoard</a>	Practices independently under a collaborative agreement with a physician. May prescribe drugs and therapeutic devices. May function as a direct care provider, case manager, consultant, educator, and researcher. May accept referrals from, consult with, cooperate with, or refer to all other types of health care providers, including but not limited to physicians, chiropractors, podiatrists, and dentists. Requires completion of no less than 30 hours of formal study in the prescribing of psychotropic medications and medications to treat their side effects which included instruction in health assessment, psychotropic classifications, psychopharmacology, indications, dosages, contraindications, side effects, and evidence of application.  <p style="text-align: right;">(M.S. 148.171)</p>
Certified Nurse Practitioner (RN, CNP) – Adult psychiatric certification	MN Board of Nursing <a href="http://www.state.mn.us/portal/mn/jsp/home.do?agency=NursingBoard">www.state.mn.us/portal/mn/jsp/home.do?agency=NursingBoard</a>	Practices independently under a collaborative agreement with a physician. May prescribe drugs and therapeutic devices. May function as a direct care provider, case manager, consultant, educator, and researcher. May accept referrals from, consult with, cooperate with, or refer to all other types of health care providers, including but not limited to physicians, chiropractors, podiatrists, and dentists.  <p style="text-align: right;">(M.S. 148.171)</p>
Certified Nurse Practitioner (RN, CNP) – Family psychiatric certification	MN Board of Nursing <a href="http://www.state.mn.us/portal/mn/jsp/home.do?agency=NursingBoard">www.state.mn.us/portal/mn/jsp/home.do?agency=NursingBoard</a>	Practices independently under a collaborative agreement with a physician. May prescribe drugs and therapeutic devices. May function as a direct care provider, case manager, consultant, educator, and researcher. May accept referrals from, consult with, cooperate with, or refer to all other types of health care providers, including but not limited to physicians, chiropractors, podiatrists, and dentists.  <p style="text-align: right;">(M.S. 148.171)</p>

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PROFESSION	LICENSING BOARD	SCOPE OF PRACTICE
Licensed Psychological Practitioner (LPP)	MN Board of Psychology <a href="http://www.psychologyboard.state.mn.us">www.psychologyboard.state.mn.us</a>	Practices under supervision. Must be employed by a licensed psychologist or an agency that employs or contracts with a supervising licensed psychologist.  (M.S. 148.908)
Licensed Psychologist (LP)	MN Board of Psychology <a href="http://www.psychologyboard.state.mn.us">www.psychologyboard.state.mn.us</a>	Practices independently without supervision. May observe, evaluate, interpret or modify human behavior by application of psychological principles, methods, or procedures including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• psychotherapy;</li> <li>• psycho-educational services and treatment;</li> <li>• assessment by testing and other means of intelligence, personality, abilities, interests, aptitudes, and neuropsychological functioning;</li> <li>• testimony as an expert witness concerning the characteristics of an individual;</li> <li>• consultation and supervision; and</li> <li>• research and teaching.</li> </ul> (M.S. 148.89)
Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW)	MN Board of Social Work <a href="http://www.socialwork.state.mn.us">www.socialwork.state.mn.us</a>	Practices under supervision. May engage in clinical practice under supervision of an independent clinical social worker.  (M.S. 148D.050)
Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW)	MN Board of Social Work <a href="http://www.socialwork.state.mn.us">www.socialwork.state.mn.us</a>	Practices independently without supervision. May engage in clinical practice. <i>Clinical practice</i> is the diagnosis and treatment of psychosocial function, disability, or impairment, including addictions and emotional, mental, and behavioral disorders, including plans based on a differential diagnosis. Treatment may include psychotherapy.  (M.S. 148D.050)

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Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW)	MN Board of Social Work <a href="http://www.socialwork.state.mn.us/">http://www.socialwork.state.mn.us/</a>	Practices under supervision. May engage in clinical practice under supervision of an independent clinical social worker.  (M.S. 148D.050)
Licensed Social Worker (LSW)	MN Board of Social Work <a href="http://www.socialwork.state.mn.us/">http://www.socialwork.state.mn.us/</a>	Practices under supervision. May <b>not</b> engage in clinical practice.  Practice includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• assessment</li> <li>• case management</li> <li>• client-centered advocacy</li> <li>• client education and counseling</li> <li>• crisis intervention</li> <li>• referral</li> </ul> (M.S. 148D.050)
Certified peer specialist		The commissioner of human services shall develop a training and certification process for certified peer specialists, who must be at least 21 years of age and have a high school diploma or its equivalent. The candidates must have had a primary diagnosis of mental illness, be a current or former consumer of mental health services, and must demonstrate leadership and advocacy skills and a strong dedication to recovery. The training curriculum must teach participating consumers specific skills relevant to providing peer support to other consumers. In addition to initial training and certification, the commissioner shall develop ongoing continuing educational workshops on pertinent issues related to peer support counseling.  (M.S. 256B.0615)

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PROFESSION	LICENSING BOARD	SCOPE OF PRACTICE
Mental Health Behavioral Aide		<p>Practices under the direction of a mental health professional to implement the rehabilitative mental health services identified in the client's individual treatment plan.</p> <p>A level I mental health behavioral aide must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be at least 18 years old;</li> <li>• have a high school diploma or general equivalency diploma (GED) or two years of experience as a primary caregiver to a child with severe emotional disturbance within the previous ten years; and</li> <li>• meet preservice and continuing education requirements under subdivision 8.</li> </ul> <p>A level II mental health behavioral aide must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be at least 18 years old;</li> <li>• have an associate or bachelor's degree or 4,000 hours of experience in delivering clinical services in the treatment of mental illness concerning children or adolescents; and</li> <li>• meet preservice and continuing education requirements in subd. 8.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">(M.S. 256B.0943, subd. 7)</p>
Mental Health Rehabilitation Worker		<p>Practices under the direction of a mental health practitioner or mental health professional and under the clinical supervision of a mental health professional in the implementation of rehabilitative mental health services as identified in the recipient's individual treatment plan who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is at least 21 years of age;</li> <li>• has a high school diploma or equivalent;</li> <li>• has successfully completed 30 hours of training during the past two</li> </ul>

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		<p>years in all of the following areas: recipient rights, recipient-centered individual treatment planning, behavioral terminology, mental illness, co-occurring mental illness and substance abuse, psychotropic medications and side effects, functional assessment, local community resources, adult vulnerability, recipient confidentiality; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• meets the qualifications in subitem (A) or (B):</li> </ul> <p>(A) has an associate of arts degree in one of the behavioral sciences or human services, or is a registered nurse without a bachelor's degree, or who within the previous ten years has:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) three years of personal life experience with serious and persistent mental illness;</li> <li>(2) three years of life experience as a primary caregiver to an adult with a serious mental illness or traumatic brain injury; or</li> <li>(3) 4,000 hours of supervised paid work experience in the delivery of mental health services to adults with a serious mental illness or traumatic brain injury; or</li> </ol> <p>(B)(1) is fluent in the non-English language or competent in the culture of the ethnic group to which at least 20 percent of the mental health rehabilitation worker's clients belong;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(2) receives during the first 2,000 hours of work, monthly documented individual clinical supervision by a mental health professional;</li> <li>(3) has 18 hours of documented field supervision by a mental health professional or practitioner during the first 160 hours of contact work with recipients, and at least six hours of field supervision quarterly during the following year;</li> </ol>
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		<p>(4) has review and cosignature of charting of recipient contacts during field supervision by a mental health professional or practitioner; and</p> <p>(5) has 40 hours of additional continuing education on mental health topics during the first year of employment.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(M.S. 256B.0623, subd.5)</p>
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### **Mental health practitioner. (M.S. 245.462 subd. 17 - DEFINITIONS)**

"Mental health practitioner" means a person providing services to persons with mental illness who is qualified in at least one of the following ways:

- (1) holds a bachelor's degree in one of the behavioral sciences or related fields from an accredited college or university and:
  - (i) has at least 2,000 hours of supervised experience in the delivery of services to persons with mental illness; or
  - (ii) is fluent in the non-English language of the ethnic group to which at least 50 percent of the practitioner's clients belong, completes 40 hours of training in the delivery of services to persons with mental illness, and receives clinical supervision from a mental health professional at least once a week until the requirement of 2,000 hours of supervised experience is met;
- (2) has at least 6,000 hours of supervised experience in the delivery of services to persons with mental illness;
- (3) is a graduate student in one of the behavioral sciences or related fields and is formally assigned by an accredited college or university to an agency or facility for clinical training; or
- (4) holds a master's or other graduate degree in one of the behavioral sciences or related fields from an accredited college or university and has less than 4,000 hours post-master's experience in the treatment of mental illness.

## **Mental Health/Behavioral Health Professionals in Minnesota Scope of Practice Summary**

### **Mental health professional. (M.S. 245.462 subd. 18 - DEFINITIONS)**

"Mental health professional" means a person providing clinical services in the treatment of mental illness who is qualified in at least one of the following ways:

- (1) in psychiatric nursing: a registered nurse who is licensed under sections [148.171](#) to [148.285](#); and:
  - (i) who is certified as a clinical specialist or as a nurse practitioner in adult or family psychiatric and mental health nursing by a national nurse certification organization; or
  - (ii) who has a master's degree in nursing or one of the behavioral sciences or related fields from an accredited college or university or its equivalent, with at least 4,000 hours of post-master's supervised experience in the delivery of clinical services in the treatment of mental illness;
- (2) in clinical social work: a person licensed as an independent clinical social worker under chapter 148D, or a person with a master's degree in social work from an accredited college or university, with at least 4,000 hours of post-master's supervised experience in the delivery of clinical services in the treatment of mental illness;
- (3) in psychology: an individual licensed by the Board of Psychology under sections [148.88](#) to [148.98](#) who has stated to the Board of Psychology competencies in the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness;
- (4) in psychiatry: a physician licensed under chapter 147 and certified by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology or eligible for board certification in psychiatry;
- (5) in marriage and family therapy: the mental health professional must be a marriage and family therapist licensed under sections [148B.29](#) to [148B.39](#) with at least two years of post-master's supervised experience in the delivery of clinical services in the treatment of mental illness; or
- (6) in allied fields: a person with a master's degree from an accredited college or university in one of the behavioral sciences or related fields, with at least 4,000 hours of post-master's supervised experience in the delivery of clinical services in the treatment of mental illness.

For further detail on Minnesota Statutes, visit: [www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/statutes/](http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/statutes/)