

# Understanding Mental Health Provider Credentials

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APPENDICES

The following types of professional licensees provide mental health services to youth<sup>122</sup> and are overseen by the NJ Office of the Attorney General (OAG), Division of Consumer Affairs (Div.CA). Each profession has a board which requires specific education, examinations, supervised hours, and imposes other ongoing oversight. These professionals are not allowed to prescribe medication.

- **Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW):** LCSWs complete a master's degree in social work and 3,000 supervised hours. Licensed Social Workers (LSW) have completed their master's degree but must work under supervision.
- **Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFT):** LMFTs complete a master's degree in marriage and family therapy (or related major) and 4,500 supervised hours. Licensed Associate Marriage and Family Therapists (LAMFT) have completed their master's degree but must work under supervision.
- **Licensed Professional Counselors (LPC):** LPCs complete a master's degree in counseling (or related major) and 3,000-4,500 supervised hours. Licensed Associate Counselors (LAC) have completed their master's degree but must work under supervision.
- **Psychologists:** Psychologists complete a doctoral degree, either a PhD or a PsyD, typically completing 5-8 or 4-6 years of schooling respectively, and 3,500 supervised hours. Additional postdoctoral training may be required depending on the program.<sup>123</sup>

**Note:** See section "[Provision of Applied Behavior Analysis \(ABA\) Services](#)" for information about Applied Behavior Analysts.

<sup>122</sup> Claibourne Counseling. (n.d.). *What do all those letters mean (LPC, LCSW, LMFT, PsyD)?*  
<https://claibournecounseling.com/what-do-all-those-letters-mean-lpc-lcsw-lmft-psyd/>

<sup>123</sup> <https://www.psychology.org/degrees/phd/>

**Table H1**

Psychotherapy Providers Actively Licensed in New Jersey	
License Type	Number of Individuals
Practicing Psychologist	3,499
Psychologist (Three-Year Permit)*	174
Marriage and Family Therapist	653
Associate Marriage and Family Therapist*	374
Professional Counselor	7,215
Associate Counselor*	2,963
Licensed Clinical Social Worker	12,256
Licensed Social Worker*	9,552
<b>Provider Without Required Supervision</b>	<b>23,623</b>
<b>Provider With Required Supervision*</b>	<b>13,063</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,686</b>

**Source:** NJ Div. CA License Directory. Accessed March 28, 2026.

Providers without asterisks are licensed to practice without supervision while providers with asterisks are need to practice under supervision. Number of individuals includes only those with an active license and a New Jersey address on file. Individuals who reported New Jersey residency but listed addresses clearly located outside the United States were excluded; addresses were not otherwise fully verified. Some listed addresses include P.O. boxes and may not reflect the individual's primary residence or practice location in New Jersey. Although all individuals included are licensed to provide services, not all may provide psychotherapy.

