

Mental health provider*	Educational requirements?	Can she provide counseling?	Can she diagnose substance abuse?	Can she diagnose mental illness?	Can she evaluate and testify to competency and sanity?¹	Can she prescribe medication?
Advocate, caseworker, life coach, psychotherapist, group leader**	Varies	Yes, but it is unregulated	No	No	No	No
Minister or chaplain**	Varies	Yes	No	No	No	No
Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor (LCDC) ²	Associate's degree plus supervision	Yes, but it is limited to issues related to substance abuse	Yes	No	No	No
Licensed Bachelor's Level Social Worker (LBSW) ³	Bachelor's degree in social work	Yes, but cannot practice independently without special license	No	No	No	No
Licensed Master's Level Social Worker (LMSW) ³	Master's degree in social work	Yes, but cannot practice independently without special license	No	No	No	No
Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW), ³ Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC), ⁴ Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist (LMFT) ⁵	Master's degree plus supervision	Yes; can practice independently	Yes	Yes	No	No
Psychologist ⁶	Doctoral degree plus supervision	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes; must be qualified	Not in Texas, but can in other states w/ add'l training
Licensed Psychological Associates (LPAs) ⁶	Bachelor's degree	Yes, but must work under supervision of licensed psychologist	Yes, under supervision	Yes, under supervision	No	No
Registered Nurse (RN) ⁷	Bachelor's degree	Yes, but it is limited to scope of the license	No	No	No	No
Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) ⁷	Master's degree	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Physician Assistant ⁸	Completion of program approved by ARC-PA ⁹	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Physician ¹⁰ (including psychiatrist ¹¹)	MD and advanced training	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes (qualified psychiatrist only)	Yes

* All mental health providers listed can offer education. **Does not require license.