

SB 5054- Scope of Practice Analysis for Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT)

"Marriage and family therapy" is defined in RCW 18.225.005(8) as the diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders, whether cognitive, affective, or behavioral, within the context of relationships, including marriage and family systems. Marriage and family therapy involves the professional application of psychotherapeutic and family systems theories and techniques in the delivery of services to individuals, couples, and families for the purpose of treating such diagnosed nervous and mental disorders. The practice of marriage and family therapy means the rendering of professional marriage and family therapy services to individuals, couples, and families, singly or in groups, whether such services are offered directly to the general public or through organizations, either public or private, for a fee, monetary or otherwise.

The completed analysis revealed 45 states are deemed to have an equivalent and or greater scope to Washington; five states scopes were deemed not to be substantially equivalent to Washington:

1. Iowa
2. Massachusetts
3. Michigan
4. New Jersey
5. Rhode Island

The analysis of scope of practices is based strictly on statutory and rules language of each state.

State	Equivalent Scope of Practice?	Summary
Alabama	<u>YES</u>	The language of Alabama’s scope of practice is well-defined and exceeds Washington’s standards by allowing licensees to use and interpret psychological testing as a modality of clinical practice.
Alaska	<u>YES</u>	Alaska’s scope of practice language is similar to that of Washington; however, is greater in equivalency because practice is based on standard diagnostic nomenclature for marital and family therapy. The language also includes development of treatment plans to address interpersonal and intrapersonal conflicts, changing perceptions, and attitudes in relationships.
Arizona	<u>YES</u>	Arizona’s scope of practice is not as defined as Washington’s but is considered substantially equivalent.

State	Equivalent Scope of Practice?	Summary
Arkansas	YES	The scope of practice in Arkansas is substantially equivalent to Washington.
California	YES	The scope of practice in California is substantially equivalent to Washington. The language of the scope also includes pre-marital counseling and methods to address psychosexual and psychosocial aspects of therapy.
Colorado	YES	Colorado's scope of practice is similar to Washington and is substantially equivalent. The language also addresses counseling for domestic violence, substance use disorder, and individual dysfunction in relationships.
Connecticut	YES	Connecticut's scope of practice is not as defined as Washington's but is considered substantially equivalent.
Delaware	YES	Delaware's scope of practice is as defined as Washington's but is considered substantially equivalent.
District of Columbia	YES	The scope of practice in the District of Columbia is substantially equivalent to Washington.
Florida	YES	The scope of practice in Florida is substantially equivalent to Washington.
Georgia	YES	The scope of practice in Georgia is not as defined as Washington's but is considered substantially equivalent.
Hawaii	YES	The language of Hawaii's scope of practice is well-defined and exceeds Washington's standards by allowing licensees to use and interpret psychological testing as a modality of clinical practice.
Idaho	YES - Idaho Marriage and Family Therapy Rules (see page 17)	Idaho's scope of practice language is substantially equivalent to Washington's. In addition, Idaho's scope of practice specifically allows licensees the ability to diagnose and treat addiction.
Illinois	YES	Illinois's scope of practice is not as defined but is considered substantially equivalent.
Indiana	YES	The scope of practice in Indiana is substantially equivalent to Washington.

State	Equivalent Scope of Practice?	Summary
Iowa	<u>NO</u>	The language of Iowa's scope of practice does not specifically indicate the independent practice of diagnosing and treatment of mental and emotional disorders.
Kansas	<u>YES</u>	Kansas's scope of practice is not as defined as Washington's, but is considered substantially equivalent.
Kentucky	<u>YES</u>	Kentucky's scope of practice is not as defined as Washington's, but is considered substantially equivalent. Although the language does not specifically indicate diagnosis, "identification" is often used as a term in clinical practice equal to diagnosis.
Louisiana	<u>YES</u>	Louisiana's scope of practice is not as defined as Washington's but is considered substantially equivalent.
Maine	<u>YES</u>	Maine's scope of practice is not as defined as Washington's but is considered substantially equivalent.
Maryland	<u>YES</u>	The language of Maryland's scope of practice is not as defined as Washington's and does not specifically indicate diagnosis and treatment. However, the use of the combined terms identification/assessment and therapeutic interventions are commonly used in place of diagnosis and treatment. Therefore Maryland's scope is considered substantially equivalent.
Massachusetts	<u>NO</u>	The language of Massachusetts's scope of practice does not specifically indicate the independent practice of diagnosing and treating mental and emotional disorders. Although the language does include therapeutic techniques and psychotherapy, the language appears to encourage referrals for treatment.
Michigan	<u>NO</u>	The language of Michigan's scope of practice does not specifically indicate the independent practice of diagnosing and treating mental and emotional disorders. Scope of practice further appears dependent on education and training. Therefore Michigan is considered not substantially equivalent in scope.
Minnesota	<u>YES</u>	Minnesota's scope of practice is not as defined as Washington's but is considered substantially equivalent.

State	Equivalent Scope of Practice?	Summary
Mississippi	YES	Mississippi's scope of practice language is well defined and is substantially equivalent to Washington.
Missouri	YES	Missouri's scope of practice language is well-defined and is substantially equivalent to Washington.
Montana	YES	Since the scope of practice also allows the use of testing to evaluate, diagnose, and develop treatment plans, Montana's is considered greater in scope compared to Washington.
Nebraska	YES	Nebraska's scope of practice is not as defined as Washington's but is considered substantially equivalent.
Nevada	YES	Nevada's scope of practice considered overall substantially equivalent to Washington notwithstanding some limitations on the practitioner's ability to diagnose and treat psychotic and addictive disorders.
New Hampshire	YES	New Hampshire's mental health discipline language includes the clinical practice of marriage and family therapy, and is considered equivalent to Washington's scope.
New Jersey	NO	The language of New Jersey's scope of practice does not specifically indicate the independent practice of diagnosing and treating mental and emotional disorders.
New Mexico	YES	New Mexico's scope of practice is not as defined as Washington's but is considered substantially equivalent.
New York	YES	The scope of practice in New York is substantially equivalent to Washington.
North Carolina	YES	The scope of practice in North Carolina is substantially equivalent to Washington.
North Dakota	YES	The scope of practice in North Dakota is substantially equivalent to Washington.
Ohio	YES	The scope of practice in Ohio is substantially equivalent to Washington.
Oklahoma	YES	The scope of practice in Oklahoma is substantially equivalent to Washington.
Oregon	YES	The language of Oregon's scope of practice is similar to Washington's and is substantially equivalent. The language includes the application of techniques to address interpersonal conflict, changing perceptions, and attitudes in relationships.

State	Equivalent Scope of Practice?	Summary
Pennsylvania	<u>YES</u>	Pennsylvania’s scope of practice is not well defined; however, is considered substantially equivalent to Washington.
Rhode Island	<u>NO</u>	The language of Rhode Island’s scope of practice does not specifically indicate the independent practice of diagnosing and the treatment of mental and emotional disorders.
South Carolina	<u>YES</u>	The scope of practice in South Carolina is substantially equivalent to Washington.
South Dakota	<u>YES</u>	South Dakota’s scope of practice is not as defined as Washington’s but is considered substantially equivalent.
Tennessee	<u>YES</u>	Tennessee’s scope of practice is not as defined as Washington’s but is considered substantially equivalent.
Texas	<u>YES</u>	The scope of practice in Texas is similar to Washington and is considered substantially equivalent. MFT scope of practice laws allow MFTs to engage in the diagnosis and treatment of mental health disorders; Texas does not use the word “treatment,” going instead with “remediation” of disorders instead.
Utah	<u>YES</u>	Utah’s scope of practice language is similar to that of Washington; however, is greater than equivalent because practice is based on standard diagnostic nomenclature for marital and family therapy. The language also includes development of treatment plans to address interpersonal and intrapersonal conflicts, changing perceptions, and attitudes in relationships.
Vermont	<u>YES</u>	The scope of practice in Vermont is substantially equivalent to Washington.
Virginia	<u>YES</u>	Virginia’s scope of practice is as defined as Washington’s but is considered substantially equivalent.
West Virginia	<u>YES</u>	West Virginia’s scope of practice is not as defined as Washington’s but is considered substantially equivalent.
Wisconsin	<u>YES</u>	Wisconsin’s scope of practice is not as defined as Washington’s but is considered substantially equivalent.
Wyoming	<u>YES</u>	The scope of practice in Wyoming is considered substantially equivalent to Washington.