

If for any reason you are unable to resolve such a concern with your hypnotherapist, you may choose to file a complaint with the Department of Health. Contact the Customer Service Center for assistance:

### **Washington State Department of Health**

**Mission:** To protect and improve the health of people in Washington state.

The Department of Health regulates registered hypnotherapists within RCW 18.19 and WAC 246-810. The intent of the laws and rules is to protect the public and ensure the competence of those providing hypnotherapy services. Registered Hypnotherapists act according to state law, department of health rules, and national laws and regulations.

Customer Service Center Phone:  
(360) 236-4700  
Fax: (360) 236-4818  
Website: [www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa](http://www.doh.wa.gov/hsqa)  
Email: [hsqa.csc@doh.wa.gov](mailto:hsqa.csc@doh.wa.gov)  
Address: 111 Israel Road SE  
Tumwater, WA 98501

An advisory committee, made up of two certified counselors, two registered hypnotherapists, and three public members, meets quarterly to provide advice to Department of Health.

The committee welcomes the public to attend these meetings. Contact the Department of Health for meeting information, or refer to the hypnotherapy profession website.

The Health Systems Quality Assurance Division within Department of Health has information on all health care professionals in the state. This information includes credential status and current restrictions or disciplinary actions, since July of 1998. If you have a question about a provider, contact Department of Health.

### **Provider Credential Search Website**

The link below allows you to search for any provider by name or credential number.

<https://fortress.wa.gov/doh/providercredentialsearch/SearchCriteria.aspx>

### **Registered Hypnotherapists Website**

The link below is the Department of Health's website which contains specific information about the hypnotherapy profession in the state of Washington.

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/Hypnotherapist>

# **Registered Hypnotherapist**

**The goal of this brochure is to provide the public with general information regarding the Registered Hypnotherapist credential in Washington State.**

**This information is also provided to assist you in determining the type of services and provider that may best meet your needs.**



For persons with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats. To submit a request, please call 1-800-525-0127. (TTY/TDD 1-800-833-6388)

## What You might expect From a Registered Hypnotherapist

Your registered hypnotherapist is encouraged to provide you with a disclosure statement that contains the following information:

- Name and business contact information
- Washington State credential number
- Areas of expertise or therapeutic orientation

They should:

- Inform you of the costs of your treatment, billing practices, and how your records are maintained.
- Give you the opportunity to discuss matters of confidentiality, privacy, and release of information.
- Assist you in referrals to other professionals, if necessary or requested.
- Treat you with respect and dignity.

**Remember:** Your involvement in developing goals, requesting a change in approach to services, or in decisions about termination of services is encouraged.

**Registered Hypnotherapists** provide assistance dealing with issues related but not limited to:

- Smoking cessation
- Weight Loss
- Weight Management
- Stress Reduction
- Motivation
- Healthy Relationships
- Confidence Building

## To be a Registered Hypnotherapist, your provider must...

- Complete and submit an application to the Department of Health
- Pay applicable fees
- Pass a background check
- Complete Four hours of training in HIV/AIDS education.

### Confidentiality and Health Care Information Access and Disclosure

Your hypnotherapist will maintain client records. These records are sensitive and confidential. They should be properly documented, stored, retained, and released only under specific circumstances. Your hypnotherapist should have a clear procedure to ensure confidentiality of your records.

You have the right to expect that anything you tell your hypnotherapist will be held in confidence with a few specific exceptions:

- If you are involved in a civil or criminal lawsuit, a judge can order your file be turned over to the court;
- If you make statements that a child, elderly, or disabled person has been abused or neglected, law requires your hypnotherapist to report that information to the appropriate authorities.
- If you make statements that indicate you intend to harm yourself or others, your hypnotherapist may report that information to the appropriate authorities.

There also may be circumstances your hypnotherapist may need to consult with another of your healthcare providers. You will be asked to sign an authorization for release of information about your services. You should be informed of the reason for such disclosures and are encouraged to ask questions about anything that is unclear to you, prior to signing this authorization.

## Maintaining a Professional Relationship

Your relationship with your hypnotherapist should be professional in nature. Hypnotherapy may include discussing the most private aspects of your life and relationships. It is your hypnotherapist's responsibility to provide an atmosphere of trust and respect.

Hypnotherapy often deals with difficult and emotional issues. There may be a time when you feel confused or troubled by something that occurs during your session. You are encouraged to talk about this with your hypnotherapist so you can come to a more comfortable resolution. If you don't feel the issue has been resolved you may wish to get a second opinion.

You may also review the section of the law that describes forms of unprofessional conduct covered in RCW 18.130.180. Unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to:

- Misrepresentations or false advertising
- Incompetence, negligence, or malpractice
- Violation of any state or federal code
- Willful betrayal of confidentiality
- Sexual misconduct