

## SB 5054 Scope of Practice Analysis for Licensed Independent Clinical Social Workers (LISCW)

*Independent clinical social work is defined in RCW 18.225.010 as the diagnosis and treatment of emotional and mental disorders based on knowledge of human development, the causation and treatment of psychopathology, psychotherapeutic treatment practices, and social work practice as defined in advanced social work. Treatment modalities include but are not limited to diagnosis and treatment of individuals, couples, families, groups, or organizations.*

*The completed analysis revealed 49 states are deemed to have an equivalent and/or greater scope to Washington;*

*One state’s scope of practice was deemed not to be substantially equivalent to Washington:*  
 1. Nevada

*The analysis of scope of practices is based strictly on statutory and rules language of each state. Differing states may refer to social workers by various titles; however, the assessment is based on the practice of social work as defined in statute and rule for each state.*

State	Equivalent Scope of Practice?	Summary
<b>Alabama</b>	<a href="#"><u>Yes</u></a>	<p>The language in Alabama's scope of practice is significantly more definitive and defined than Washington's.</p> <p>The scope of practice separates direct from indirect social work practice. By doing so, the scope has differing requirements for clinical and consultative/research practice. And, the scope of practice language divides clinical social work practice into three categories for further clarity.</p>
<b>Alaska</b>	<a href="#"><u>Yes</u></a>	<p>Alaska’s scope of practice language is substantially equivalent to that of Washington.</p> <p>The language includes the use of human and referral services, assisting clients to achieve social adaptations, and supporting community efforts toward social, health, research, and ancillary services.</p>
<b>Arizona</b>	<a href="#"><u>Yes</u></a>	<p>Although not as defined, the language of Arizona’s scope of practice is considered substantially equivalent to that of Washington.</p>

State	Equivalent Scope of Practice?	Summary
Arkansas	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>The language of Arkansas’s scope of practice is substantially equivalent to that of Washington.</p> <p>In addition to the standard language of social work, Arkansas includes social conditions, human behavior, and the application of social work toward social planning, administration, and research as components of the scope of practice.</p>
California	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>California’s scope of practice exceeds that of Washington. The language includes addressing unconscious motivations in behavior, interpreting psychosocial aspects of care, assisting with modification of internal and external conditions affecting mental or behavior health.</p>
Colorado	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>Colorado’s scope of practice is well-defined and considered greater in equivalence to Washington’s.</p> <p>The language of Colorado’s scope includes components such as crisis intervention, mediation, advocacy, consultation, and continuity of care planning. The scope also includes referrals, administration and management, program evaluation/education, and community service as component of clinical practice.</p>
Connecticut	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>The language of Connecticut’s scope of practice is similar to that of Washington and is considered equivalent.</p> <p>Although implied in Washington’s scope of practice, Connecticut’s scope includes services related to additive disorders and behavior modification.</p>
Delaware	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>The scope of practice of Delaware is similar; however, more defined than that of Washington and is considered equivalent.</p> <p>Although implied in Washington’s scope of practice, the language in Delaware’s scope includes biopsychological dysfunctions, disability, and additive disorders and behavior modification. Additionally, the language</p>

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<b>District of Columbia</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>specifically defines “master’s social work” in clear division from bachelor’s level social work.</p> <p>The language of the District of Columbia (Washington, D.C.) scope of practice is similar to that of Washington’s and is consider equivalent. However, the District of Columbia’s scope specifically identifies psychosocial care as a modality of focus for social workers.</p>
<b>Florida</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>Florida’s scope of practice is well-defined and specifically identifies the role of social workers as counselors.</p> <p>The language in Florida’s scope is specific to clinical practice and includes hypnotherapy, sex therapy, interpersonal relationships, and environmental stress. The language also addresses addiction, psychosocial, and differential assessments. The gravity and specificity of the language makes Florida’s scope of practice greater than that of Washington.</p>
<b>Georgia</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>The language in Georgia’s scope of practice is very similar to Washington’s and is considered substantially equivalent. However, Georgia’s language specifically includes community-related social work and social and health services as elements of clinical practice.</p>
<b>Hawaii</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>Hawaii’s scope of practice is well-defined and specifically separates the clinical practice of social work from administrative aspects of social work.</p> <p>Hawaii’s language transcends the essentials of clinical social work to include emotional, social, and economic conditions, administration of programs and organizations, mediation, and research. Social work also includes policy development, the evaluation of social systems, consultation, and other functions beyond clinical social work. The gravity of the language makes Hawaii’s scope of practice greater than that of Washington.</p>
<b>Idaho</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>Idaho’s scope of practice language is substantially similar to that of Washington and includes particular attention to person in environment considerations.</p>

<b>Illinois</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	Illinois' scope of practice language is substantially equivalent to that of Washington.
<b>State</b>	<b>Equivalent Scope of Practice?</b>	<b>Summary</b>
<b>Indiana</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>Indiana's scope of practice is more defined than Washington's and is considered substantially equivalent.</p> <p>Indiana's language expands upon the essentials of clinical social work by including care based on the American Psychiatric Association's Diagnostic manual and the Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders IV (DSM-IV). The language also expands the scope of practice to include the use of instruments as tools to diagnose and determine treatment modalities.</p>
<b>Iowa</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>The scope of practice for Iowa is well defined and specifically separates the clinical practice of social work by academic degree. And, the language makes Iowa's scope substantially equivalent to Washington.</p> <p>The scope of practice, regardless of degree level, includes the fundamentals of clinical social work having language similar to Washington's. And, there is little difference in the clinical scope of practice between the master's and bachelor's level practitioner. However, regardless of degree, social workers are not permitted to treat psychosocial conditions or disorders. And, bachelor's level social workers are not independent practitioners.</p>
<b>Kansas</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>The scope of practice for Kansas is well-defined and the language makes Kansas's scope greater in equivalency to Washington.</p> <p>Kansas's language specifically includes social service administration, social planning, social work consultation and social work research to one or more of the following ends: Helping people obtain tangible services; counseling with individuals, families and groups; helping communities or groups provide or improve social and health services; and participating in relevant social action.</p>
<b>Kentucky</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	The scope of practice for Kentucky is well-defined and specifically separates the clinical practice of social work by bachelor's, master's

		and doctorate academic degrees. The language makes Kentucky's scope greater in equivalency to Washington's.
<b>State</b>	<b>Equivalent Scope of Practice?</b>	<b>Summary</b>
<b>Louisiana</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>The scope of practice of Louisiana is similar; however, more defined than that of Washington and is considered greater in equivalency.</p> <p>Although implied in Washington's scope of practice, the language in Louisiana's scope includes social work practices guided by knowledge of human behavior, biopsychosocial development, social systems and resources, economic and cultural institutions, and their interactions.</p>
<b>Maine</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>The language in Maine's scope of practice is very similar to Washington's and is considered substantially equivalent. However, unlike Washington's language, Maine specifically includes unconscious motivation, environmental stress, social systems, and cultural diversity as components of the scope of practice.</p>
<b>Maryland</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>The language in Maryland's scope of practice is more defined than Washington's; however, is substantially equivalent.</p> <p>The language does not differentiate between the scopes of bachelor's and master's level practitioners. And, the scope language includes case management, advocacy, research, community organization, and evaluation of intervention plans.</p>

<b>Massachusetts</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>The language of Massachusetts’s scope of practice is substantially equivalent to Washington. Unlike Washington’s scope, Massachusetts includes addiction as a component of clinical social work.</p> <p>However, the language in Massachusetts’s scope of practice specifically excludes the clinical practice of diagnosing or treatment of any organic illness that involves medical or organic therapies.</p>
<b>State</b>	<b>Equivalent Scope of Practice?</b>	<b>Summary</b>
<b>Michigan</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>Michigan’s scope of practice divides clinical practice based on academic levels. However, at the master’s level, the language is more defined to include the scope of bachelor’s level practitioners and is substantially equivalent to Washington. And, the scope clearly defines practice settings.</p> <p>The bachelor’s level practitioner would also be substantially equivalent in the clinical practice of social work in Washington.</p>
<b>Minnesota</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>Minnesota’s scope of practice is better defined and exceeds Washington’s standards for clinical social work.</p> <p>Minnesota’s scope expands on the role of social workers as counselors. Unlike Washington’s scope, Minnesota’s language includes addiction, abuse and neglect, disabilities, discrimination, poverty, and trauma as conditions licensees can address in the practice of clinical social work.</p>
<b>Mississippi</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>Mississippi’s scope of practice is substantially equivalent to Washington’s standards for clinical social work. However, the language goes further to include the restoration of individual social functions affected by physical, emotional, or environmental factors. And, it separates the master’s level practice of clinical social work</p>

		from those practitioners with a bachelor's degree.
<b>Missouri</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>The language of Missouri's scope of practice is substantially equivalent to Washington's standards for clinical social work.</p> <p>Although the language differentiates master's clinical social work from the bachelor's level, the scope of practice for bachelor's level practitioners also appears equivalent to Washington.</p>
<b>Montana</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>Montana's scope of practice is substantially equivalent to that of Washington. However, the language expands upon the concepts of social work practice to include social adjustments and clearer treatment modalities.</p>
<b>State</b>	<b>Equivalent Scope of Practice?</b>	<b>Summary</b>
<b>Nebraska</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>The language of Nebraska's scope of practice is better defined and exceeds Washington's standards for clinical social work.</p> <p>The language restrict social workers from measuring and testing personality and intelligence; however, it includes providing clinical services for individuals affected by homelessness, domestic violence, and within a number of institutional environments (nursing homes, correctional facilities, etc.).</p>
<b>Nevada</b>	<a href="#">No</a>	<p>The language of Nevada's scope of practice is not substantially equivalent to Washington's standards for clinical social work.</p> <p>The language differentiates social work from clinical social work. The practice of social work involves the application of methods to restore physical, social, and economic functions. Clinical social work, according to the language, helps in the diagnosis and treatment of mental/emotional conditions.</p>
<b>New Hampshire</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<p>New Hampshire broadly defines mental health practice to include clinical social work among those licensed to provide mental/behavior health services.</p> <p>The language of New Hampshire's scope of</p>

		practice does not differentiate clinical practice among the mental health licensees. However, the language is considered substantially equivalent to Washington's standards for clinical social work.
<b>New Jersey</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	New Jersey broadly defines social work, social work counseling, and clinical social work and collectively are considered substantially equivalent to Washington's standards for clinical social work.
<b>New Mexico</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	The scope of practice of clinical social work, for bachelor's and master's level practitioners, is better defined in New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) and are substantially equivalent to Washington's standards for clinical social work. However, the language found in the statute provided would not be considered substantially equivalent.
<b>State</b>	<b>Equivalent Scope of Practice?</b>	<b>Summary</b>
<b>New York</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	New York's scope of practice is well-defined and is considered greater in equivalence to Washington.  The language defined key concepts of clinical competencies and required developmental treatment regimens to prevent addiction, react to disabilities and injuries, and adjust to social issues. The language also allows the use of tests and other assessment tools to evaluate, diagnose, and develop treatment plans.
<b>North Carolina</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	The scope of practice of clinical social work in North Carolina is substantially equivalent to Washington's standards for clinical social work.
<b>North Dakota</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	The scope of practice of clinical social work in North Dakota includes more elements; however, it is substantially equivalent to Washington's standards for clinical social work.
<b>Ohio</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	Ohio's scope of practice is similar to Washington's and is substantially equivalent.
<b>Oklahoma</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	The scope of practice of clinical social work in Oklahoma is substantially equivalent to Washington's standards for clinical social work. However, the language allows therapy (treatments) based on the education and training of the practitioner, and prohibits biological and medical treatment modalities.



<b>Oregon</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	Oregon’s scope of practice language is similar to that of Washington and incorporates family and marital therapeutic services, as well as providing individual services.
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	The scope of practice for clinical social work in Pennsylvania is not well defined in statute.  However, it is better defined in administrative code and considered substantially equivalent to Washington’s standards for clinical social work.
<b>Rhode Island</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	The scope of practice for clinical social work in Rhode Island is substantially equivalent to Washington’s standards for clinical social work. However, the language includes the practice of case work (case management) as part of clinical social work practice and excludes modalities reserved for the practice of psychology (i.e. psychological testing).
<b>State</b>	<b>Equivalent Scope of Practice?</b>	<b>Summary</b>
<b>South Carolina</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	The scope of practice for clinical social work, for bachelor’s and master’s level practice, in South Carolina is well-defined. The master’s level practice is substantially equivalent to Washington’s standards for clinical social work.  The language in the scope of practice also includes advanced social work, which is also practiced in Washington.
<b>South Dakota</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	The scope of practice for clinical social work in South Dakota is substantially equivalent to Washington’s standards for clinical social work.
<b>Tennessee</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	The scope of practice for clinical social work, for bachelor’s and master’s level practice, in Tennessee is well-defined.  The language for master’s level practice is substantially equivalent to Washington’s standards for clinical social work.
<b>Texas</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	The language with the scope of practice for Texas is considered greater in equivalence to Washington.  The language suggest the use of Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), the International Classification of Diseases (ICD), Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) Codes, and other diagnostic classification systems as

		the basis of assessment, diagnosis, treatment and other practice activities.
<b>Utah</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	Utah's scope of practice language expands upon the concepts of social work; however, is substantially equivalent to that of Washington.
<b>Vermont</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	Vermont's scope of practice is well-defined and is substantially equivalent to Washington's requirements.
<b>Virginia</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	Virginia's scope of practice, in statutory language, is broad and not well-defined in comparison to Washington. However, within administrative code, the language is better defined and is substantially equivalent to Washington's standards of clinical social work practice.
<b>State</b>	<b>Equivalent Scope of Practice?</b>	<b>Summary</b>
<b>West Virginia</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	West Virginia's scope of practice is well-defined and exceeds the language found in Washington statutory language.
<b>Wisconsin</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	The language of Wisconsin's scope of practice is similar and substantially equivalent to Washington.
<b>Wyoming</b>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	The language of Wyoming's scope of practice is more detailed and substantially equivalent to Washington.