# International Association of Interpersonal Hypnotherapists

IAIH Hypnosis Law Reference and Compliance Guide – 2026 Edition

State Laws and Regulations Governing the Practice of Hypnosis in the United
States



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# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INTERPERSONAL **HYPNOTHERAPISTS**

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#### **Disclaimer and Scope of Use:**

This document is provided for informational and educational purposes only. It does not constitute legal advice. Practitioners are responsible for understanding and complying with the laws and regulations in their respective jurisdictions. The International Association of Interpersonal Hypnotherapists (IAIH) makes every effort to ensure accuracy as of publication but cannot guarantee completeness or ongoing legal validity. For specific legal questions, consult an attorney familiar with hypnosis law in your state.

#### Overview:

This guide summarizes the laws and regulations governing the practice of hypnosis and hypnotherapy throughout the United States. Each state entry includes relevant statutes or administrative codes, summarized requirements, and citations for verification. Practitioners should review each applicable state's statutes and maintain awareness of updates.

# **Categories of State Regulation:**

- 1. Mandatory Registration States (Connecticut, Washington)
- 2. States with Specific Hypnosis Laws (California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, North Carolina, Texas, Utah)
- 3. States Without Specific Hypnosis Statutes (All others)

Full state-by-state entries with citations and footnotes have been compiled and verified as of January 2026.

# **Update Protocol:**

This reference is reviewed annually and updated as needed each January. For the most current version, visit the IAIH website or contact the IAIH Compliance Office.

#### **Contact:**

International Association of Interpersonal Hypnotherapists (IAIH) <a href="https://www.InterpersonalHypnotherapy.com">www.InterpersonalHypnotherapy.com</a> <a href="mailto:membership@InterpersonalHypnotherapy.com">membership@InterpersonalHypnotherapy.com</a>

#### Introduction and Ethical Statement

As we continue our work to raise the standards of hypnotherapy education and credentialing, it is essential that all IAIH-certified practitioners operate within the law and within the scope of their professional credentials.

This document is provided for **informational and educational purposes only**. Each practitioner is responsible for understanding and complying with the laws and regulations of their respective state. While the IAIH consults with legal professionals when compiling this guide, it is important that anyone practicing hypnosis independently verify state requirements and ensure that their work remains consistent with their training and credentials.

The most current version of this guide is maintained online and updated annually: <a href="https://www.instituteofhypnotherapy.com/iaih-hypnosis-law/">https://www.instituteofhypnotherapy.com/iaih-hypnosis-law/</a>

A clear commitment to ethical conduct is also required of all practitioners. The **IAIH Code of Ethics** outlines the principles of integrity, professionalism, and client welfare that guide ethical hypnosis practice:

https://www.instituteofhypnotherapy.com/iaih-code-of-ethics/

When a Hypnotherapist receives a **referral from a licensed practitioner of the healing arts**, they are legally bound by **HIPAA** and are required to maintain the confidentiality of all Protected Health Information (PHI). For more information, visit: <a href="https://www.instituteofhypnotherapy.com/iaih-hipaa-compliance/">https://www.instituteofhypnotherapy.com/iaih-hipaa-compliance/</a>

Practitioners must also understand the distinction between **therapeutic** and **non-therapeutic hypnosis**.

- Therapeutic hypnosis involves addressing medical, dental, or mental-health conditions where illness, injury, or disease is present.
- *Non-therapeutic hypnosis* focuses on behavioral and motivational change, stress management, and personal development.

In most states, a referral from a licensed practitioner allows unlicensed professionals to perform therapeutic hypnosis; however, exceptions exist in states such as **Colorado** and **Arizona**, where referral laws differ. If you are uncertain about your state's regulations or your specific scope of practice, please contact the IAIH for guidance.

The IAIH supports the use of the federally recognized occupational title "Hypnotherapist" for those with appropriate credentials, as it reflects a higher level of professional training than "Hypnotist." Nevertheless, all practitioners must operate within the boundaries of their training, their credentials, and the law.

Unlicensed practitioners are **strongly advised not to use restricted medical terminology** such as *heal, healing, cure, treat, diagnose,* or *therapy* in advertising or communication.

© 2026 International Association of Interpersonal Hypnotherapists IAIH Hypnosis Law Reference and Compliance Guide – 2026 Edition Page 6 of 41 Certain terms—such as "clinical" in **Utah**—are reserved by law for appropriately licensed professionals.

Finally, note that **some states require mandatory registration** before engaging in professional hypnosis practice. Please review this guide carefully and confirm any registration requirements that may apply to you.

# National Overview: The Legal Landscape of Hypnosis in the United States

Across the United States, hypnosis remains largely unregulated at the state level. In most jurisdictions, individuals may legally practice hypnosis for non-therapeutic purposes—such as relaxation, motivation, and self-improvement—without obtaining a state license. Only a small number of states, including Connecticut and Washington, require formal registration to practice hypnosis professionally, while others—such as California, Florida, New Jersey, Texas, and Utah—define or limit hypnosis within broader health-care or counseling statutes.

Because the majority of states do **not** have laws that directly govern the unlicensed practice of hypnosis, regulation often depends on **context and representation**. Practitioners who avoid diagnosing or treating medical or psychological conditions—and who do not use protected professional titles—are generally permitted to offer hypnosis services. However, when hypnosis is used for therapeutic or clinical purposes, most states restrict such activities to licensed health-care or mental-health professionals, or to individuals working under their supervision or referral.

Despite the overall permissiveness, practitioners must remain aware of **consumer-protection and false-advertising laws**, which apply in every state. The use of terms such as *therapy, treatment, healing,* or *clinical* can imply medical authority and may trigger professional-practice restrictions. Ethical and transparent communication with clients is essential to maintain both legal and professional integrity.

In summary, unlicensed hypnosis is legal in most of the United States when practiced within non-therapeutic boundaries, but it becomes regulated once it overlaps with medicine, dentistry, or mental health. Practitioners are encouraged to review their state's laws carefully, maintain appropriate documentation and disclosures, and stay informed through IAIH's annual legal updates.

# Use of the Title "Hypnotherapist"

The title "Hypnotherapist" is a **federally recognized occupational classification** in the United States (U.S. Department of Labor, Standard Occupational Classification Code 29-1199.01).

However, the legal use of this title at the state level depends on how it is represented and the context in which hypnosis is practiced.

In most states, unlicensed practitioners may use the title *Hypnotherapist* as long as they:

• Do not represent themselves as licensed medical, dental, or mental-health professionals;

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- Clearly disclose that they are not providing medical or psychological treatment;
   and
- Restrict their services to non-therapeutic hypnosis, such as self-improvement, stress management, motivation, and personal growth.

Some states, such as **Utah**, restrict specific terminology (for example, the use of the word "clinical"), and others, like **Florida**, tie therapeutic hypnosis explicitly to the supervision or referral of a licensed health-care provider.

The IAIH supports the responsible professional use of the title "Hypnotherapist" by individuals who have completed **recognized hypnotherapy education and certification programs** and who operate within the limits of their training, ethics, and the law. Practitioners must ensure that all written, verbal, and online representations—including advertising, business names, and credentials—accurately reflect their scope of practice and avoid implying licensure where none exists.

## **Connecticut** — Mandatory Registration State

#### **Registration Requirement**

Persons who practice hypnosis in Connecticut must obtain a *Hypnotist Registration* from the Department of Consumer Protection before engaging in business. A civil penalty of up to \$100 may be assessed for practicing without registration (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 20-660(f)).

# **Eligibility and Application**

Applicants submit a notarized application with name, address, date of birth, Social Security number, driver's license number, and a representation of no felony or sex-offender registration.

A \$100 fee (payable to "Treasurer, State of Connecticut") must accompany the form. Registrations expire annually on October 31 and must be renewed each year.

#### **Renewal Procedure**

Renewal notices are sent 30–45 days before expiration. Practitioners may renew online at <u>eLicense.ct.gov</u> or by mail. The renewal fee is \$100.

# **Change of Information**

Registered hypnotists must notify the Department in writing within 30 days of any change in name, address, or status as a registered sex offender (§ 20-660).

### **Definitions**

- Hypnotist means any person who performs hypnosis, except those already licensed in medicine, dentistry, nursing, counselling, or other regulated health professions (§ 20-660(a)).
- Hypnosis means an artificially induced altered state of consciousness characterized by heightened suggestibility and receptivity to direction (§ 20-660(a)).

### **Investigations and Discipline**

The Department of Consumer Protection investigates complaints, including abuse, misappropriation of property, or fraud (§ 20-660(d)). A finding may be entered in the public registry, and practitioners may appeal within 30 days. Findings may be removed after one year upon petition and demonstration of rehabilitation (§ 20-660(e)).

Practicing hypnosis for compensation in Connecticut without registration violates state law. The registry system provides public transparency and consumer protection while allowing non-medical hypnotists to operate legally when compliant.

#### **Footnotes**

- 1. Conn. Gen. Stat. § 20-660 et seq. (2024).
- 2. Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection, *Hypnotist Registration Information*, <a href="https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/license-services-division/all-license-applications/hypnotist-registration-information">https://portal.ct.gov/dcp/license-services-division/all-license-applications/hypnotist-registration-information</a>.
- 3. Hypnotist Application Form (Rev. Jan 2017), <a href="https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/dcp/pdf/applications">https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/dcp/pdf/applications</a> added 2017/hyp-application 17jan.pdf.

# **Washington** — **Mandatory Registration State**

# **Registration Requirement**

In Washington, hypnotherapists are regulated under Chapter 18.19 RCW and Chapter 246-810 WAC. A person may not, for a fee, practice hypnotherapy without registration as a *Hypnotherapist* with the Department of Health (RCW § 18.19.030; WAC 246-810-010).

# **Eligibility and Application**

Applicants must:

- 1. Pay a non-refundable \$155 application fee (WAC 246-810-990);
- 2. Complete at least four hours of AIDS education (WAC 246-12-270); and
- 3. Submit fingerprints if required for a background check.

# **Renewal and Fees**

Credentials must be renewed annually on the practitioner's birthday. Renewal fee: \$80; late fee: \$75 (WAC 246-810-990).

# **Practice Standards**

- Disclosure: Prior to services, clients must receive a written disclosure describing qualifications, fees, techniques, and the right to refuse services (WAC 246-810-031).
- Recordkeeping: Practitioners must document all sessions and retain records per WAC 246-810-035.
- Mandatory Reporting: Any suspicion of child or vulnerable-adult abuse must be reported within 24 hours (RCW § 26.44.030; WAC 246-16-200).
- Financial Conduct: Advance fees must be held in a separate account until services are rendered. Unperformed-service funds must be refunded within 30 days upon request (WAC 246-810-035).
- Ethics: Sexual misconduct with clients or key parties constitutes grounds for discipline (WAC 246-16-100).

# **Definitions and Exemptions**

- *Hypnotherapist* means a person registered under RCW § 18.19 who practices hypnosis as a modality.
- Counsellor includes hypnotherapists within its scope (WAC 246-810-010).
   Exemptions include religious counsellors, unpaid peer counsellors, and out-of-state practitioners providing limited workshops (WAC 246-810-020).

# **Summary**

Washington maintains one of the most formal registration systems for hypnotherapists in the U.S. Registrants operate under defined ethical, documentation, and consumer-protection rules that support professional credibility.

# **Footnotes**

- 1. Wash. Rev. Code § 18.19.030 (2024).
- 2. Wash. Admin. Code § 246-810-010 et seq. (2024).
- 3. Washington State Department of Health, *Hypnotherapist Licensing Information*, <a href="https://doh.wa.gov/licenses-permits-and-certificates/professions-new-renew-or-update/hypnotherapist/licensing-information">https://doh.wa.gov/licenses-permits-and-certificates/professions-new-renew-or-update/hypnotherapist/licensing-information</a>.

# Part 2 – States with Specific Hypnosis Laws

# California — Specific Hypnosis Law

# **Regulatory Overview**

California permits both licensed and unlicensed individuals to practice hypnosis, provided that unlicensed practitioners do **not** diagnose or treat mental or physical disorders and clearly disclose that they are **not licensed healing-arts practitioners** (Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 2053.5).

# **Scope of Practice**

Licensed professionals (physicians, psychologists, clinical social workers, MFTs, etc.) may integrate hypnosis within their existing scope.

Unlicensed practitioners may offer "avocational or vocational self-improvement" services, such as stress reduction, motivation, or habit control, but must avoid representing their services as medical or psychological treatment (§ 2908).

# **Disclosure Requirements**

Prior to providing services, unlicensed practitioners must supply clients with a **written disclosure** in plain language that includes:

- A statement that they are not a licensed physician;
- That services are complementary or alternative to licensed healing arts;
- The nature and theory of the services; and
- Their training and qualifications.
   Clients must sign an acknowledgment, which is retained for three years (§ 2053.6).

#### Summary

California is permissive toward non-therapeutic hypnosis provided clear consumer disclosure and avoidance of medical claims.

# **Footnotes**

- 1. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code § 2908 (2024).
- 2. Cal. Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 2053.5–2053.6 (2024).

3. California Legislature, <a href="https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov">https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov</a>.

# Colorado — Specific Hypnosis Law

## **Regulatory Overview**

Colorado differentiates between *psychotherapy* (licensed) and *non-therapeutic hypnosis*.

Unlicensed individuals may practice hypnosis only for **self-improvement or performance enhancement**, not for treating mental disorders (Colo. Rev. Stat. § 6-1-724).

# **Key Distinction**

Since 2020, the state has eliminated its "unlicensed psychotherapist" registry; hypnosis used for psychotherapy now requires licensure under Title 12, Art. 245.

Hypnosis for motivation, study skills, or habit change remains lawful if the practitioner clearly states they are **not providing psychotherapy**.

#### Summary

Non-therapeutic hypnosis is allowed under alternative/complementary health law, but therapeutic hypnosis requires mental-health licensure.

#### **Footnotes**

- 1. Colo. Rev. Stat. § 6-1-724 (2024).
- 2. Colo. Rev. Stat. § 12-245-303 (2024).

# Florida — Specific Hypnosis Law

# **Regulatory Overview**

Florida restricts *therapeutic hypnosis* to licensed practitioners of the healing arts or to individuals working **under their supervision**, **prescription**, **or direction** (Fla. Stat. § 485.004).

#### **Definitions**

 Hypnosis means any process that increases suggestibility and is used for therapeutic purposes (§ 485.003).

- Practitioner of the Healing Arts includes physicians, psychologists, chiropractors, LMHCs, LMFTs, and others licensed under Title XXXII.
- A *qualified person* may employ hypnotic techniques only under the direction of such a licensed practitioner (§ 485.002).

# **Non-Therapeutic Practice**

Individuals may practice hypnosis for non-medical purposes—motivation, study skills, etc.—so long as they do not claim to diagnose or treat disease (§ 490.0141).

#### Summary

Therapeutic hypnosis in Florida requires referral or supervision from a licensed healingarts professional.

#### **Footnotes**

- 1. Fla. Stat. §§ 485.002-.004 (2024).
- 2. Fla. Stat. § 490.0141 (2024).
- 3. Florida Legislature, http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes.

# Illinois — Specific Hypnosis Law

# **Regulatory Overview**

Illinois allows the independent practice of hypnosis provided the practitioner does **not** engage in diagnosis or treatment of mental or physical illness or imply licensure as a psychologist (225 ILCS 15/3).

# **Scope of Permissible Practice**

Unlicensed individuals may use hypnosis for avocational or self-improvement purposes such as stress reduction, motivation, or habit change.

# **Prohibited Acts**

Practitioners may not:

- Diagnose or treat mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders;
- Represent themselves as psychologists or physicians; or
- Offer psychotherapy under any title protected by law.

Hypnosis is unregulated in Illinois unless it crosses into the defined practice of psychology or medicine.

#### **Footnotes**

- 1. 225 ILCS 15/3 (2024).
- 2. Illinois Compiled Statutes, <a href="https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs">https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs</a>.

# New Jersey — Specific Hypnosis Law

# **Regulatory Overview**

Licensure is not required for persons practicing *hypnocounseling* aimed at stress management or habit change unrelated to medical or mental-health disorders (N.J.A.C. 13:42-1.2).

#### **Permitted Services**

Hypnocounselors may:

- Interview and assess client suitability;
- Test suggestibility;
- Induce hypnosis;
- Teach self-hypnosis; and
- Apply hypnotic techniques for avocational goals.

### Restrictions

They may not treat or diagnose medical or psychological conditions, nor use protected titles such as "psychologist" (§ 13:42-1.1).

# Summary

New Jersey formally recognizes *hypnocounseling* as a lawful, non-licensed practice for stress reduction and behavioral enhancement.

#### **Footnotes**

1. N.J. Admin. Code §§ 13:42-1.1–1.2 (2024).

 New Jersey Board of Psychological Examiners, https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/regulations.

# North Carolina — Regulated (De Facto Restriction Through Psychology and Counseling Acts)

# **Regulatory Overview**

North Carolina does not license "hypnotists" as a separate profession. However, the Psychology Practice Act (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.136) and the Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor Act are interpreted broadly by state boards. The North Carolina Psychology Board has issued *cease-and-desist* orders to individuals using hypnosis or "hypnotherapy" in ways deemed to constitute psychotherapy or behavior modification. Unlicensed individuals may use hypnosis for non-therapeutic, avocational, or educational purposes—such as relaxation, motivation, and self-improvement—provided they clearly describe their services as "hypnotism" and avoid the term "hypnotherapy."

Some practitioners have been asked to obtain an "Art of Healing" privilege license under G.S. 105-41, which is a revenue measure, not an authorization to practice healing arts.

# Summary

North Carolina functionally restricts therapeutic hypnosis to licensed professionals. Non-therapeutic hypnotism remains lawful when carefully described and practiced without medical or psychological claims. Practitioners should avoid the term "hypnotherapy" and use "hypnotism" or "hypnotist" instead.

#### **Footnotes**

- 1. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 90-270.136 (2024).
- 2. N.C. Gen. Stat. § 105-41 (2024) ("Art of Healing" privilege license).
- 3. North Carolina Psychology Board, <a href="https://www.ncpsychologyboard.org">https://www.ncpsychologyboard.org</a>

# Texas — Specific Hypnosis Law

# **Regulatory Overview**

Texas law authorizes hypnosis and hypnotherapy within several licensed professions and specific law-enforcement applications.

Licensed psychologists, professional counselors, and marriage & family therapists may

use hypnotherapy within their scope (Tex. Occ. Code § 501.003; 22 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 681.31, 801.42).

# **Special Certification**

Members of law enforcement may obtain an *Investigative Hypnosis Proficiency*Certificate by completing a basic course and examination (37 Tex. Admin. Code § 221.7).

# Summary

Only licensed mental-health or law-enforcement professionals may use hypnosis therapeutically in Texas; unlicensed individuals may use it solely for non-therapeutic self-improvement.

#### **Footnotes**

- 1. Tex. Occ. Code § 501.003 (2024).
- 2. 22 Tex. Admin. Code §§ 681.31, 801.42 (2024).
- 3. 37 Tex. Admin. Code § 221.7 (2024).
- 4. Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council, <a href="https://bhec.texas.gov/statutes-and-rules">https://bhec.texas.gov/statutes-and-rules</a>.

# Utah — Specific Hypnosis Law

# **Regulatory Overview**

Utah allows unlicensed individuals to perform hypnosis **only for motivation or lifestyle improvement**, not for treating medical or psychological disorders (Utah Code § 58-61-307).

# **Scope and Restrictions**

Permitted activities include:

- Inducing hypnosis for motivation or habit change;
- Consulting with clients about behavior patterns;
- Teaching self-hypnosis; and
- Testing suggestibility.

#### Prohibited acts include:

- Practicing mental-health therapy;
- Using restricted professional titles; or
- Treating diagnosed conditions (§ 58-60-107).

Utah recognizes non-therapeutic hypnosis as lawful but restricts clinical or medical use to licensed professionals.

# **Footnotes**

- 1. Utah Code § 58-61-307 (2024).
- 2. Utah Code § 58-60-107 (2024).
- 3. Utah Legislature, <a href="https://le.utah.gov/xcode">https://le.utah.gov/xcode</a>.

# Alabama — No Specific Hypnosis Law

# **Regulatory Overview**

Alabama does not maintain a statute that directly governs the unlicensed practice of hypnosis. Hypnosis may be offered for relaxation, motivation, and personal development so long as the practitioner does not diagnose, treat, or advertise the treatment of medical or mental disorders. Any therapeutic use of hypnosis must occur under the authority or supervision of a licensed health-care or mental-health professional as defined in Ala. Code § 34-8A-2 and § 34-26-1.

# Summary

Non-therapeutic hypnosis is lawful in Alabama provided no medical or psychological services are implied or performed. Misrepresentation of credentials can constitute deceptive trade practice under Ala. Code § 8-19-5.

#### **Footnotes**

1. Ala. Code § 34-8A-2 (2024). 2. Ala. Code § 8-19-5 (2024).

# Alaska — No Specific Hypnosis Law

#### **Regulatory Overview**

Alaska has no licensing statute specific to hypnosis. Practice is governed generally by consumer-protection and advertising laws. Hypnosis used for behavioral or educational purposes is permitted if it does not claim to diagnose or cure illness. Therapeutic applications fall under professional practice acts for medicine and psychology (AS 08.64 and AS 08.86).

#### Summary

Unlicensed hypnosis is permitted for self-improvement and relaxation. Health-related claims may violate the Alaska Consumer Protection Act.

### **Footnotes**

1. Alaska Stat. AS 08.64 (2024). 2. Alaska Stat. AS 08.86 (2024).

#### Arizona — No Specific Hypnosis Law

# **Regulatory Overview**

Arizona does not license or register hypnotists. However, state law restricts the practice of psychotherapy and the diagnosis or treatment of mental disorders to licensed professionals (A.R.S. § 32-2084). Hypnosis may be practiced independently for non-therapeutic purposes such as habit change, stress management, and motivation, provided no therapeutic claims are made.

# Summary

Arizona allows non-therapeutic hypnosis but prohibits unlicensed individuals from engaging in clinical or medical hypnosis. Referral arrangements do **not** authorize unlicensed therapy in this state.

In Arizona, there is currently no statute that licenses or registers hypnotists specifically. Unlicensed individuals may practice hypnosis for non-therapeutic purposes provided they do not diagnose or treat mental or physical illness. Any hypnosis used in a therapeutic, diagnostic, or behavioral-health context likely falls under the scope of licensed professionals. Because there is no explicit state law governing referrals to unlicensed hypnotists, practitioners seeking to receive referrals from licensed professionals should proceed with caution and may wish to seek legal counsel or clarification from relevant licensing boards.

**Referral Policy:** Arizona law does not prohibit licensed practitioners from referring clients to unlicensed professionals for services that are lawful for unlicensed persons to provide (e.g., non-therapeutic or educational hypnosis). However, referrals that result in the unlicensed person providing psychotherapy, diagnosis, or treatment of mental or physical disorders would be inconsistent with Arizona's professional practice acts and may constitute unprofessional conduct.

# **Footnotes**

1. Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 32-2084 (2024). 2. Arizona Board of Psychologist Examiners, https://psychboard.az.gov.

# Arkansas — No Specific Hypnosis Law

# **Regulatory Overview**

Arkansas has no statute directly addressing hypnosis. Hypnosis for entertainment, education, or personal improvement is permissible. Any hypnosis used for diagnosis or

© 2026 International Association of Interpersonal Hypnotherapists IAIH Hypnosis Law Reference and Compliance Guide – 2026 Edition Page 21 of 41 treatment of illness must be performed by or under the supervision of a licensed physician or mental-health professional (A.C.A. § 17-97-102).

#### Summary

Practitioners may offer non-therapeutic hypnosis freely but must avoid language implying medical or psychological treatment.

#### **Footnotes**

1. Ark. Code Ann. § 17-97-102 (2024). 2. Arkansas State Board of Psychology, <a href="https://psychologyboard.arkansas.gov">https://psychologyboard.arkansas.gov</a>.

# **Delaware** — No Specific Hypnosis Law

## **Regulatory Overview**

Delaware has no statute specifically governing hypnosis. The practice is permissible for self-improvement or avocational purposes provided it does not cross into psychotherapy or medical treatment. Titles such as "therapist" or "psychologist" are protected under 24 Del. C. § 3502 and may not be used by unlicensed persons.

# Summary

Non-therapeutic hypnosis is lawful in Delaware when practiced transparently and without protected professional titles. Advertising must comply with the Delaware Consumer Fraud Act (6 Del. C. § 2513).

## **Footnotes**

1. 24 Del. C. § 3502 (2024). 2. 6 Del. C. § 2513 (2024).

# District of Columbia — No Specific Hypnosis Law

#### **Regulatory Overview**

The District of Columbia does not have a statute directly regulating hypnosis or hypnotherapy. The D.C. Department of Health regulates only licensed professions such as psychology, counseling, and medicine. Hypnosis may therefore be practiced independently for non-therapeutic purposes as long as no diagnosis, treatment, or medical implication is made (D.C. Code § 3-1201.01).

# Summary

Hypnosis for self-improvement and education is permitted in the District of Columbia.

© 2026 International Association of Interpersonal Hypnotherapists IAIH Hypnosis Law Reference and Compliance Guide – 2026 Edition Page 22 of 41 Therapeutic or clinical hypnosis must be conducted by a licensed professional operating within their scope.

#### **Footnotes**

 D.C. Code § 3-1201.01 (2024).
 D.C. Department of Health Licensing Boards, https://dchealth.dc.gov.

# Georgia — No Specific Hypnosis Law

# **Regulatory Overview**

Georgia has no specific statute addressing the unlicensed practice of hypnosis. Non-therapeutic hypnosis for relaxation, habit control, or personal growth is permitted. The practice of psychotherapy or counseling, however, is restricted to licensed professionals under O.C.G.A. § 43-10A-7.

# Summary

Unlicensed individuals may practice hypnosis for self-help purposes if they avoid representing themselves as licensed counselors or health-care professionals.

#### **Footnotes**

1. O.C.G.A. § 43-10A-7 (2024). 2. Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage & Family Therapists, <a href="https://sos.ga.gov">https://sos.ga.gov</a>.

# Hawaii — No Specific Hypnosis Law

# **Regulatory Overview**

Hawaii does not regulate hypnosis directly. Individuals may use hypnosis for non-therapeutic applications provided they do not diagnose or treat illness. Therapeutic use is limited to licensed health-care and mental-health professionals as defined under HRS §§ 465-1 and 453-1.

### Summary

Hypnosis for educational, motivational, or avocational purposes is lawful in Hawaii. Medical or psychological claims are restricted to licensed providers.

#### **Footnotes**

1. Haw. Rev. Stat. § 465-1 (2024). 2. Haw. Rev. Stat. § 453-1 (2024).

# Idaho — No Specific Hypnosis Law

### **Regulatory Overview**

Idaho has no statute specifically governing hypnosis. Hypnosis may be practiced for self-improvement, motivation, or stress management as long as it does not involve medical or psychological diagnosis or treatment. The practice of psychology and counseling is regulated under Idaho Code Title 54, Chapters 23 and 34.

### Summary

Unlicensed practitioners may use hypnosis for non-therapeutic purposes. Claims implying mental-health treatment may violate Idaho's professional-practice statutes.

#### **Footnotes**

1. Idaho Code Title 54, ch. 23 (2024). 2. Idaho Code Title 54, ch. 34 (2024).

#### Indiana — No Specific Hypnosis Law

# **Regulatory Overview**

Indiana does not regulate hypnosis as an independent occupation. Individuals may practice hypnosis for self-help and motivational goals. Therapeutic hypnosis falls under professional practice acts for medicine and psychology (Ind. Code § 25-22.5-1-1.1; § 25-33-1-1).

# Summary

Hypnosis that remains non-therapeutic and avoids health-related claims is permitted. Licensed professionals may integrate hypnosis within their respective scopes of practice.

#### **Footnotes**

1. Ind. Code § 25-22.5-1-1.1 (2024). 2. Ind. Code § 25-33-1-1 (2024).

# Iowa — No Specific Hypnosis Law

# **Regulatory Overview**

Iowa has no statute specifically governing hypnosis or hypnotherapy. The practice is lawful for self-improvement or educational purposes when no diagnosis or treatment is

© 2026 International Association of Interpersonal Hypnotherapists IAIH Hypnosis Law Reference and Compliance Guide – 2026 Edition Page 24 of 41 offered. The practice of psychology is regulated under Iowa Code § 154B.1, and medicine under § 148.1.

## Summary

Unlicensed hypnosis is permitted for non-therapeutic uses. Any representation of treatment or therapy must be avoided unless the practitioner holds appropriate licensure.

#### **Footnotes**

1. Iowa Code § 154B.1 (2024). 2. Iowa Code § 148.1 (2024).

# Kansas — No Specific Hypnosis Law

# **Regulatory Overview**

Kansas does not maintain a statute that directly regulates the unlicensed practice of hypnosis. Hypnosis for relaxation, motivation, or other non-therapeutic aims may be offered by unlicensed practitioners, provided they do not diagnose or treat illness or represent themselves as licensed health or mental-health professionals. Psychotherapy and psychology are regulated under the Kansas Psychologists Licensure Act (K.S.A. 74-5301 et seq.).

# Summary

Non-therapeutic hypnosis is generally permissible; claims implying medical or psychological treatment should be avoided. Advertising must comply with the Kansas Consumer Protection Act.

#### **Footnotes**

1. K.S.A. 74-5301 et seq. (Kansas Psychologists Licensure Act). 2. K.S.A. 50-626 (Kansas Consumer Protection Act).

# Kentucky — No Specific Hypnosis Law

# **Regulatory Overview**

Kentucky has no statute specific to hypnosis/hypnotherapy. Hypnosis may be practiced for avocational or self-improvement purposes so long as no diagnosis or treatment of medical or mental disorders is offered. The practice of psychology is regulated by the Kentucky Board of Examiners of Psychology (KRS Ch. 319).

Unlicensed practitioners may provide non-therapeutic hypnosis and must avoid implying licensure or offering psychotherapy. Deceptive advertising is prohibited by state consumer-protection law.

#### **Footnotes**

1. KRS Ch. 319 (Psychologists). 2. KRS 367.170 (Consumer Protection—unfair/deceptive acts).

# Louisiana — No Specific Hypnosis Law (Psychology Statute Includes Hypnosis)

### **Regulatory Overview**

Louisiana does not license "hypnotists" as a separate occupation; however, the **practice of psychology** explicitly includes hypnosis, stress management, and related interventions (La. R.S. 37:2352). Therapeutic hypnosis therefore falls within licensed scopes (psychology, medicine, etc.). Non-therapeutic hypnosis may be offered by unlicensed persons if no diagnosis/treatment is represented.

# Summary

Hypnosis for self-improvement is permissible; clinical applications belong under licensed practice acts. Titles implying psychology or medicine must not be used without licensure.

#### **Footnotes**

1. La. R.S. 37:2352 (definition of practice of psychology—includes hypnosis).

# Maine — No Specific Hypnosis Law (Psychology & Naturopathy Statutes Reference Hypnosis)

# **Regulatory Overview**

Maine does not separately regulate hypnotists. The psychology statute lists **hypnotherapy** among recognized techniques within licensed psychological practice (32 M.R.S. § 3811). Maine's naturopathic medicine statute also authorizes licensed N.D.s to use **hypnotherapy** (32 M.R.S. § 12522). Unlicensed practitioners may offer non-therapeutic hypnosis that avoids diagnosis/treatment claims.

Non-therapeutic hypnosis is allowed for personal development uses; therapeutic hypnosis is within licensed scopes (psychology, naturopathy, medicine).

#### **Footnotes**

1. 32 M.R.S. § 3811 (psychology). 2. 32 M.R.S. § 12522 (naturopathic medicine).

# Maryland — No Specific Hypnosis Law (Psychology Statute Includes Hypnosis)

# **Regulatory Overview**

Maryland does not license hypnotists independently. The psychology practice act defines **practice psychology** to include hypnosis when provided for compensation (Md. Health Occ. § 18-101, § 18-102). Thus, therapeutic hypnosis is restricted to licensed professionals acting within scope; non-therapeutic uses by unlicensed persons must avoid health-care claims.

# **Summary**

Self-improvement hypnosis is permissible if no diagnosis/treatment is implied. Protected titles and psychological services belong under licensure.

#### **Footnotes**

1. Md. Health Occupations § 18-101; § 18-102 (definitions/scope of practice—includes hypnosis).

# Massachusetts — No Specific Hypnosis Law (Psychology Statute Includes Hypnosis)

#### **Regulatory Overview**

Massachusetts does not regulate "hypnotists" as a separate profession. The definition of **practice of psychology** includes hypnosis, psychotherapy, and behavior therapy (M.G.L. ch. 112, § 118). Clinical/therapeutic hypnosis therefore falls under licensed practice. Non-therapeutic hypnosis for motivation or relaxation may be offered by unlicensed practitioners who avoid therapeutic claims.

#### **Summary**

Non-therapeutic hypnosis is allowed; clinical services and protected titles require appropriate licensure.

#### **Footnotes**

1. M.G.L. ch. 112, § 118 (practice of psychology—includes hypnosis).

# Michigan — No Specific Hypnosis Law (Psychology Statute Includes Hypnosis)

## **Regulatory Overview**

Michigan does not maintain a hypnosis-specific license. The psychology statute defines **practice of psychology** to include hypnosis among methods for diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of mental/emotional disorders (MCL 333.18201). Consequently, therapeutic hypnosis belongs within licensed scopes (psychology, medicine, etc.). Unlicensed providers may offer non-therapeutic hypnosis only and must avoid treatment claims.

# Summary

Non-therapeutic hypnosis is generally permissible; any clinical or diagnostic representation requires licensure.

#### **Footnotes**

1. MCL 333.18201 (definitions—practice of psychology includes hypnosis).

# Minnesota — No Specific Hypnosis Law (Psychology, Medicine, and Naturopathy Statutes Reference Hypnosis)

#### **Regulatory Overview**

Minnesota does not regulate hypnosis independently, but multiple statutes reference it within other licensed professions. The **practice of psychology** includes hypnosis (Minn. Stat. § 148.89 subd. 5); the **practice of naturopathic medicine** allows licensed naturopaths to use **hypnotherapy** (Minn. Stat. § 147E.05); and the **practice of medicine** encompasses hypnosis when used for treatment of disease (Minn. Stat. § 147.081 subd. 3). Thus, only non-therapeutic hypnosis may be performed by unlicensed individuals.

#### Summary

Self-help or performance hypnosis is lawful; therapeutic use must occur under a licensed health-care or mental-health provider.

#### **Footnotes**

Minn. Stat. § 148.89 subd. 5 (2024).
 Minn. Stat. § 147E.05 (2024).
 Minn. Stat. § 147.081 subd. 3 (2024).

# Mississippi — No Specific Hypnosis Law (Psychology Statute Includes Hypnosis)

#### **Regulatory Overview**

Mississippi has no separate law for hypnotists. The psychology act defines the **practice of psychology** to include hypnosis, biofeedback, and behavior therapy (Miss. Code Ann. § 73-31-3). Only licensed psychologists or other licensed professionals may provide hypnosis for therapeutic purposes.

#### Summary

Non-therapeutic hypnosis is allowed. Any claim of treatment or therapy requires appropriate professional licensure.

#### **Footnotes**

1. Miss. Code Ann. § 73-31-3 (2024).

# Missouri — No Specific Hypnosis Law (Psychology Statute Includes Hypnosis)

# **Regulatory Overview**

Missouri does not regulate hypnotists directly. The **practice of psychology** statute lists hypnosis among therapeutic methods (Mo. Rev. Stat. § 337.015). Licensed psychologists and counselors may use hypnosis within scope; others may perform hypnosis for self-help or educational purposes only.

#### Summary

Unlicensed hypnosis is lawful for avocational use. Titles such as "psychologist" or "psychotherapist" are protected and cannot be used without licensure.

#### **Footnotes**

1. Mo. Rev. Stat. § 337.015 (2024).

# Montana — No Specific Hypnosis Law (Psychology Statute Includes Hypnosis)

#### **Regulatory Overview**

Montana has no stand-alone law governing hypnosis. The psychology statute defines **practice of psychology** to include hypnosis, biofeedback, and behavior analysis (Mont. Code Ann. § 37-17-102). Therapeutic hypnosis therefore requires appropriate professional licensure.

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Non-therapeutic hypnosis is permitted if no diagnosis or treatment is implied.

#### **Footnotes**

1. Mont. Code Ann. § 37-17-102 (2024).

# Nebraska — No Specific Hypnosis Law (Psychology Statute Includes Hypnosis)

## **Regulatory Overview**

Nebraska does not separately license hypnotists. The **practice of psychology** includes hypnosis and related behavioral therapies (Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-3108). Only licensed psychologists or other qualified health professionals may use hypnosis therapeutically.

## Summary

Unlicensed practitioners may provide hypnosis for relaxation or self-improvement only.

# **Footnotes**

1. Neb. Rev. Stat. § 38-3108 (2024).

# Nevada — No Specific Hypnosis Law (Psychology Statute Includes Hypnosis)

# **Regulatory Overview**

Nevada does not license hypnotists separately. The psychology definition explicitly includes **hypnosis** within psychological practice (NAC 641.015). Non-therapeutic hypnosis may be practiced independently; therapeutic applications require licensure.

#### Summary

Self-help hypnosis is lawful. Clinical hypnosis belongs under licensed psychological or medical practice.

#### **Footnotes**

1. Nev. Admin. Code § 641.015 (2024).

# New Hampshire — No Specific Hypnosis Law (Psychology & Naturopathy Statutes Reference Hypnosis)

# **Regulatory Overview**

New Hampshire has no separate license for hypnotists. Both psychology (RSA 329-B:2 VII (c)) and naturopathy (RSA 328-E:4 I) statutes include hypnosis or hypnotherapy within their respective scopes. Unlicensed persons may offer hypnosis for self-improvement but may not provide mental-health or medical treatment.

# Summary

Hypnosis is permitted for avocational or educational purposes. Clinical use is limited to licensed professionals.

#### **Footnotes**

1. N.H. Rev. Stat. § 329-B:2 VII (c) (2024). 2. N.H. Rev. Stat. § 328-E:4 I (2024).

# New Mexico — No Specific Hypnosis Law

# **Regulatory Overview**

New Mexico does not license or register hypnotists as a distinct profession. Hypnosis may be offered for relaxation, motivation, and other non-therapeutic purposes, provided practitioners do not diagnose, treat, or imply treatment of medical or psychological conditions. Clinical services fall under state practice acts for psychology and medicine.

#### Summary

Non-therapeutic hypnosis is generally permissible. Therapeutic use requires appropriate professional licensure; advertising must avoid medical or psychological claims.

#### **Footnotes**

1. N.M. Stat. Ann. § 61-9-3 et seq. (Psychology Practice Act). 2. N.M. Stat. Ann. § 61-6-1 et seq. (Medical Practice Act).

# New York — No Specific Hypnosis Law

# **Regulatory Overview**

New York has no statute that directly regulates unlicensed hypnosis. The **practice of psychology** is restricted to licensed professionals under the Education Law, and

protected titles may not be used without licensure (Educ. Law Art. 153, §§ 7600 et seq.). Unlicensed individuals may provide hypnosis for non-therapeutic purposes if they do not offer diagnosis or treatment.

# Summary

Self-improvement hypnosis is lawful; clinical or diagnostic services require licensure and compliance with title-protection provisions.

#### **Footnotes**

N.Y. Educ. Law §§ 7600–7610 (Article 153, Psychology).
 NYSED Office of the Professions – Psychology, <a href="https://op.nysed.gov/professions/psychology">https://op.nysed.gov/professions/psychology</a>.

# North Dakota — No Specific Hypnosis Law (Psychology Statute References Clinical Applications of Hypnosis)

# **Regulatory Overview**

North Dakota does not license hypnotists independently. The psychology statute defines the **practice of psychology** to include "clinical applications of hypnosis," among other therapeutic techniques (N.D.C.C. § 43-32-01). Accordingly, therapeutic hypnosis is limited to licensed professionals; non-therapeutic uses by unlicensed individuals must avoid health-care claims.

#### Summary

Self-help hypnosis is lawful; clinical hypnosis belongs under licensed practice.

#### **Footnotes**

1. N.D. Cent. Code § 43-32-01 (definitions; practice of psychology).

# Ohio — No Specific Hypnosis Law (Rules Identify Hypnosis as a Hazardous Psychological Procedure)

#### **Regulatory Overview**

Ohio does not regulate "hypnotists" as a separate occupation. The psychology rules classify **hypnotic techniques for diagnostic or treatment purposes** as a "serious hazard to mental health" requiring professional expertise (Ohio Admin. Code 4732-5-01). The psychology statute defines protected psychological procedures broadly (R.C. 4732.01).

Non-therapeutic hypnosis (motivation/relaxation) may be offered by unlicensed practitioners who avoid treatment claims. Therapeutic hypnosis requires appropriate professional licensure.

#### **Footnotes**

1. Ohio Rev. Code § 4732.01. 2. Ohio Admin. Code 4732-5-01; 4732-3-01(L).

# Oklahoma — No Specific Hypnosis Law (Psychology Statute Includes Hypnosis)

# **Regulatory Overview**

Oklahoma does not license hypnotists separately. The psychology statute includes **hypnosis** within the practice of psychology, a branch of the healing arts (59 O.S. § 1352). Clinical/therapeutic hypnosis thus falls within licensed scopes. Non-therapeutic hypnosis may be offered by unlicensed individuals if no diagnosis or treatment is represented.

### **Summary**

Permissible for self-improvement; clinical use and protected titles require licensure.

#### **Footnotes**

1. 59 O.S. § 1352 (practice of psychology—includes hypnosis).

# Oregon — No Specific Hypnosis Law

# **Regulatory Overview**

Oregon has no statute specific to hypnosis/hypnotherapy. Hypnosis for non-therapeutic purposes (relaxation, motivation, performance) may be practiced by unlicensed individuals. Clinical or diagnostic use falls under licensed practice acts, including the psychology statutes (ORS 675.010 et seq.) and medicine (ORS 677.010 et seq.).

# Summary

Non-therapeutic hypnosis is generally permissible with careful advertising; therapeutic claims require licensure.

#### **Footnotes**

1. ORS 675.010 et seq. (psychology). 2. ORS 677.010 et seq. (medicine).

# Pennsylvania — No Specific Hypnosis Law

# **Regulatory Overview**

Pennsylvania does not regulate hypnotists as a separate profession. The **Professional Psychologists Practice Act** and Board regulations govern psychological services and protected titles (63 P.S. § 1201 et seq.; 49 Pa. Code Ch. 41). Unlicensed individuals may offer hypnosis for non-therapeutic purposes, avoiding diagnosis/treatment claims and any implication of licensed status.

#### Summary

Self-improvement hypnosis is lawful; clinical use and protected titles fall under psychology/medicine licensure.

#### **Footnotes**

1. 63 P.S. § 1201 et seq. (Professional Psychologists Practice Act). 2. 49 Pa. Code Ch. 41 (State Board of Psychology).

# Rhode Island — No Specific Hypnosis Law (Psychology Statute Includes Hypnotherapy)

#### **Regulatory Overview**

Rhode Island has no independent licensing category for hypnotists. The definition of *practice of psychology* includes counseling, psychotherapy, **hypnotherapy**, and related modalities (R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-44-1 et seq.; 216-RICR-40-05-15). Licensed counselors may also use hypnotherapy within their authorized scope.

#### Summary

Non-therapeutic hypnosis may be freely offered for relaxation, education, or self-improvement. Any therapeutic or diagnostic application requires professional licensure.

#### **Footnotes**

 R.I. Gen. Laws § 5-44-1 (2024).
 2. 216 RICR 40-05-15 (State Board of Psychology Rules).

# South Carolina — No Specific Hypnosis Law

#### **Regulatory Overview**

South Carolina does not separately regulate hypnosis. The **practice of psychology** and
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**professional counseling** statutes list hypnosis or hypnotherapy among therapeutic techniques reserved for licensees (S.C. Code Ann. § 40-55-50; § 40-75-20). Unlicensed persons may use hypnosis for self-help purposes so long as no medical or psychological treatment is offered.

# Summary

Permitted for non-therapeutic use; clinical hypnosis falls under licensed professions.

#### **Footnotes**

1. S.C. Code Ann. § 40-55-50 (2024). 2. S.C. Code Ann. § 40-75-20 (2024).

# South Dakota — No Specific Hypnosis Law (Psychology Statute References Hypnosis)

# **Regulatory Overview**

South Dakota has no stand-alone hypnosis law. The psychology act includes hypnosis among "psychological procedures" (SDCL § 36-27A-1). Therapeutic hypnosis is restricted to licensed professionals.

# Summary

Self-improvement hypnosis is lawful; therapeutic or diagnostic use must occur within licensed practice.

#### **Footnotes**

1. S.D. Codified Laws § 36-27A-1 (2024).

# Tennessee — No Specific Hypnosis Law (Psychology Statute Includes Hypnosis)

# **Regulatory Overview**

Tennessee does not license hypnotists. The psychology statute defines the *practice of psychology* to include counseling, psychotherapy, and **hypnosis** (Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-11-203). Unlicensed individuals may conduct hypnosis for non-therapeutic purposes only.

#### **Summary**

Non-therapeutic hypnosis is allowed; clinical hypnosis and protected titles require licensure.

#### **Footnotes**

1. Tenn. Code Ann. § 63-11-203 (2024).

# **Vermont** — No Specific Hypnosis Law (Naturopathy Statute Includes Hypnotherapy)

# **Regulatory Overview**

Vermont does not regulate hypnosis independently. The **practice of naturopathic medicine** authorizes licensed naturopaths to use **hypnotherapy** among natural therapies (26 V.S.A. § 4121). Unlicensed practitioners may perform non-therapeutic hypnosis for relaxation or education but not for treating illness.

### Summary

Permissible for avocational and self-help applications; therapeutic use reserved for licensed professionals.

#### **Footnotes**

1. 26 V.S.A. § 4121 (2024).

# Virginia — No Specific Hypnosis Law (Psychology Statute Includes Hypnosis)

# **Regulatory Overview**

Virginia does not license hypnotists. The Code of Virginia includes **hypnosis** within the *practice of clinical psychology* (§ 54.1-3600). Therapeutic hypnosis may be practiced only by licensed psychologists or other qualified health-care providers.

#### Summary

Unlicensed hypnosis is lawful for self-help or educational purposes; treatment of illness or mental disorders requires licensure.

# **Footnotes**

1. Va. Code § 54.1-3600 (2024).

# West Virginia — No Specific Hypnosis Law

# **Regulatory Overview**

West Virginia has no statute specifically addressing hypnosis. Licensed psychologists and counselors may incorporate hypnosis within scope; unlicensed individuals may use hypnosis for non-therapeutic purposes only.

Self-improvement hypnosis is permissible; clinical applications fall under licensed practice acts.

#### **Footnotes**

1. W. Va. Code § 30-21-2 (2024).

# Wisconsin — No Specific Hypnosis Law (Psychology Statute Includes Hypnosis)

# **Regulatory Overview**

Wisconsin does not separately regulate hypnotists. The definition of *practice of psychology* includes counseling, consultation, psychotherapy, and **hypnosis** (Wis. Stat. § 455.01(5)). Only licensed psychologists may provide hypnosis for treatment; unlicensed hypnosis may be offered for self-help or relaxation.

#### **Summary**

Permissible for non-therapeutic purposes; therapeutic use requires licensure.

#### **Footnotes**

1. Wis. Stat. § 455.01(5) (2024).

# Wyoming — No Specific Hypnosis Law (Psychology Statute Includes Hypnosis)

# **Regulatory Overview**

Wyoming does not license hypnotists independently. The psychology statute defines *practice of psychology* to include **hypnosis** among therapeutic techniques (Wyo. Stat. § 33-27-113). Non-therapeutic hypnosis for education or relaxation may be performed by unlicensed individuals.

#### Summary

Non-therapeutic hypnosis is lawful; clinical or diagnostic use must occur under licensed authority.

#### **Footnotes**

1. Wyo. Stat. § 33-27-113 (2024).

# **Appendices**

# Appendix A — Key Definitions and Distinctions

- Hypnosis: an induced altered state of awareness marked by heightened suggestibility and focused attention.
- *Hypnotherapy:* the professional use of hypnosis within a therapeutic context for behavior modification, personal development, or emotional healing.
- Non-Therapeutic Hypnosis: hypnosis used for education, relaxation, selfimprovement, or motivation, not involving diagnosis or treatment of medical or mental disorders.
- Therapeutic Hypnosis: hypnosis applied for medical, dental, or mental-health purposes, generally requiring referral or licensure.
- Practitioner of the Healing Arts: as recognized under state law (e.g., medicine, psychology, dentistry, nursing, social work, counseling).
- Referral-Based Practice: when an unlicensed hypnotherapist works under the supervision, prescription, or direction of a licensed practitioner.

# **Appendix B** — **National Legal Themes**

A concise summary of what the 50-state review reveals:

1. **No Federal Regulation:** Hypnosis is governed by individual state laws; no nationwide licensing standard exists.

# 2. Three Main Categories:

- o Mandatory Registration States: Connecticut and Washington.
- Specific Hypnosis Statutes: California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, North Carolina, Texas, Utah.
- General/No Specific Law: Remaining states reference hypnosis only under psychology or health-care practice acts.
- 3. **Protected Titles:** Words like *psychologist, psychotherapist, counselor, clinical hypnotist,* etc., are generally restricted to licensees.

- 4. **Non-Therapeutic Hypnosis Freedom:** All states allow hypnosis for self-improvement, education, and relaxation, subject to consumer-protection and truth-in-advertising laws.
- 5. **HIPAA & Referrals:** Any practitioner working on medical or psychological referral must comply with HIPAA confidentiality standards.
- 6. **Advertising Guidance:** Avoid suggesting the treatment or cure of illness; focus on coaching, self-improvement, and educational outcomes.

# **Appendix C** — IAIH Professional Standards and Guidance

- Code of Ethics: Respect for client autonomy, confidentiality, and informed consent.
- Scope of Practice Assessment Protocol: IAIH members must evaluate each client's presenting issue and determine whether it falls within non-therapeutic, referral-based, or licensed scope.
- **HIPAA Compliance:** Required whenever receiving referrals or handling Protected Health Information (PHI).
- Recordkeeping: Maintain clear client records for at least seven years (digital or paper) in compliance with HIPAA security standards.
- Referral Documentation:
  - o Written referral or prescription from the licensed provider.
  - o Statement of the purpose of hypnosis within treatment.
  - Signed consent and privacy notice.

#### Appendix D — Resources and References

- <u>IAIH Hypnosis Law</u>
- IAIH Code of Ethics
- IAIH HIPAA Compliance

# **Appendix E** — Contact and Support

# International Association of Interpersonal Hypnotherapists (IAIH)

Website: <a href="https://www.interpersonalHypnotherapy.com">www.interpersonalHypnotherapy.com</a>

Email: <a href="mailto:membership@interpersonalhypnotherapy.com">membership@interpersonalhypnotherapy.com</a>

Phone: 800-551-9247

Mailing Address: 540 East Horatio Avenue, Suite 200, Maitland, FL 32751