

The following are the registration and licensing pathways for psychology, counselling, psychotherapy and behavior therapy professionals who are Professionals of Behavioral Sciences category mentioned under clause 45(b) of the Health Professionals Act 13/2015. The three pathways mentioned are

- Psychology professional's registration and license pathway
- Counseling and psychotherapy professional's registration and license pathway
- Behavioral therapists registration and license pathway

Each of the pathways mentions Registered/Licensed Professional titles, the Scope of Practice and related academic and experience requirements

These pathways will be used by Maldives Allied Health Council as a framework for the registration and licensing of the aforesaid professionals to enable their practice. Such practice must be undertaken within a professional's area and level of expertise and with due regard to ethical, legal standards. Registrants must adhere to Standards of Conduct, Performance and Ethics of the council for allied health professionals and any specific Code of Conduct for behavior science professionals published by this council.

Only professionals registered under these pathways are eligible to use the professional titles mentioned. It is an offence for any person who is not registered and licensed by Maldives Allied Health Council to use the mentioned titles in reference to themselves (Clause 96(a) of the Health Professionals Act 13/2015)

1) Psychology Professional’s Registration and License Pathway

Clinical psychology is an integration of science, theory, and clinical knowledge for the purpose of understanding, preventing, and relieving psychologically-based distress or dysfunction and to promote subjective well-being and personal development.

Professional Title	Academic requirements	Experience requirements	Scope of Practice
<p>Licensed Psychological Associate</p> <p>Applicants who are currently registered as Psychosocial Assistants and Psychologists Assistant Trainees in the council, and who have completed one year of practice post registration are eligible to the above title</p> <p>Also applicants who are currently registered as Psychologists Assistants in council are eligible to the above title</p>	<p>To be licensed for the title of Licensed Psychological Associate the applicant must have a Bachelors degree in psychology.</p>	<p>To be licensed for the title of Licensed Psychological Associate the applicant must meet any of the two criteria below along with academic requirements.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Professional clinical experience of 300 hours as follows: Direct client contact: 100 hours Indirect client contact: 200 hours The clinical experience must be gained under supervision of a licensed psychologist b. In case of professional clinical experience of 300 hours gained abroad it should be supported by supervision related documents and logs. Maldives Allied Health Council will at its discretion decide on the recognition of the professional clinical experience 	<p>Following tasks can be carried out under supervision of a psychologist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributing to the multidisciplinary discussions about a client’s diagnosis, treatment, risk assessment and care plan issues (within a group) • Undertaking specified behavioral observations and assessments (competent at undergraduate level-supervisor to decide) • Seeking and acquiring specific information by reading notes, investigating histories etc. • Assist the Psychologist in specific treatment and intervention programs with clients or groups of clients • Administrative work related to Clients or caretakers , relatives and others involved in their care • Assisting supervisors in psychological education awareness programs <p>Following tasks cannot be practiced :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write any psychological reports, or appear in court of law to discuss a client’s assessment or treatment • Formulate cases and make treatment plans alone • Carrying out, analyzing or interpreting complex assessment

Professional Title	Academic requirements	Experience requirements	Scope of Practice
<p>Licensed Provisional Psychologist</p>	<p><u>Criteria A:</u> To be licensed for the title of Licensed Provisional Psychologist the applicant must have fulfilled the undergraduate and post graduate education in psychology recognized or accredited by the council. The aforementioned refers to a recognized or accredited clinical oriented Bachelor's degree in psychology and Master's degree in psychology. These educational programs are published by the council.</p> <p><u>Criteria B:</u> Applicants who have completed an undergraduate and post graduate program that is not yet published as recognized or accredited or had followed an alternative educational pathway to the above may apply to the council for their application to be decided on a case by case basis for fulfillment of essential knowledge competencies</p>	<p>There are no additional clinical experience requirements for the applicant. However the applicant must have fulfilled practicum requirements of the Masters degree in psychology.</p>	<p>Following tasks should be carried out under direct or indirect supervision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application of theoretical and empirical professional knowledge to the selection of assessment methods and the analysis of data. • Seeking and acquiring specific information by reading notes, investigating histories etc. • Assist supervisors to carry out specific treatment and intervention programs with clients or groups of clients • Administrative work related to Clients or caretakers , relatives and others involved in their care • Assisting supervisors in psycho education awareness programs • Assist supervisors to formulate cases and make treatment plans • Draft psychological reports under direct supervision • Psychological profiling under direct supervision <p>Following tasks cannot be practiced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diagnosing psychological disorders and conditions • Appear in court of law as an expert witness
<p>Licensed Psychologist</p>	<p>As for a Licensed Provisional Psychologist</p>	<p>Experience requirements for a Psychologist are met through completing internship requirements below or having prior registered work experience as a psychologist.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice in accordance with relevant ethical codes • Practice based on best practice guidelines and individual data collected from the client

		<p><u>Experience requirements (A) clinical and professional experience internship</u> The applicants meeting above academic criteria i.e. Licensed Provisional Psychologist will be issued a registration by council to practice and gain clinical and professional experience for eventual registration as a Psychologist</p> <p>The Licensed Provisional Psychologist must undertake clinical and professional experience internship of minimum 1000 hours under a designated supervisor in Maldives as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 500 hours of supervised psychological practice in a work role approved by the council consisting of sufficient opportunity to develop the core competencies. 2. 500 hours of direct client contact under supervision of a licensed psychologist 3. Completion of case reports that demonstrate satisfactory development and attainment of the core competencies, and 4. submission of six-monthly supervisor report/s on progress towards achievement of the core competencies. 5. Applicants who are provided registration as Licensed Provisional Psychologist under Criteria B may have their clinical and professional experience requirements adjusted as decided by the council <p>In case of applicants who have completed a Masters program in Psychology which incorporates professional clinical experience of minimum 1000 hours with its components substantially similar to <u>clinical and professional experience internship</u> mentioned above it will be</p>	<p>within a scientific practice framework.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and carry out specific treatment and intervention programs with clients or groups of clients. • Application of theoretical and empirical professional knowledge to the selection of assessment methods and the analysis of data. • Skillful application of intervention(s) or investigation(s) based upon analysis of the assessment data and supported by the evidence available • Evaluation of the impact of services provided • Appear in court of law as an expert witness • Diagnosing of psychological disorders and conditions • Supervision of Licensed Psychological Associate and Licensed Provisional Psychologist.
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		<p>recognized as such by the council.</p> <p><u>Experience requirements (B) Work Experience abroad</u> Holding license as a psychologist outside Maldives with proof of active post license practice within the last two years. The qualification as well as professional clinical experience must be recognized by the related professional bodies governing registration and licensing of behavior science professionals of that country. Additionally the applicant must be registered and licensed by the aforementioned professional body. If such a professional body does not exist, then recognition from a professionals association will be required. If such a professional association does not exist then the Maldives Allied Health Council will at its discretion decide on the recognition of the professional clinical experience</p>	
Professional Title	Academic requirements	Experience requirements	Scope of Practice
<p>The following are Specialized Psychologist titles issued. The council may introduce more titles based on applications received.</p> <p>Licensed Clinical Psychologist</p> <p>Licensed Counseling Psychologist</p>	<p><u>Academic requirements</u> To be licensed for the titles of Clinical Psychologist, Counseling Psychologist, Child Psychologist (also referred as Specialized Psychologist) the applicant must meet licensing requirements as a Psychologist and should possess doctoral degree in the chosen specialty field</p>	<p><u>Experience requirements</u> To be licensed for the title of a Specialized Psychologist the applicant must be licensed previously as a psychologist and meet either of the following requirements.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Has completed a program of professional and clinical experience recognized widely and internationally required for licensing and registration of a Specialized Psychologist b. Holding license equivalent as a Specialized Psychologist outside Maldives with proof of active post license practice in the specialty within the last two years. The qualification as well as professional clinical experience must be recognized by the related professional 	<p>The general scope of practice for a Specialized Psychologist is as for a Psychologist. However it is recognized that his/her practice may include an in depth focus of his/her specialized field.</p>

Licensed Child Psychologist		bodies governing registration and licensing of behavior science professionals of that country. Additionally the applicant must be registered and licensed by the aforementioned professional body. If such a professional body does not exist then recognition from a professionals association will be required. If such a professional association does not exist then the Maldives Allied Health Council will at its discretion decide on the recognition of the professional clinical experience	
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2) **Counseling and Psychotherapy Professional's Registration and License Pathway**

Counselling can be defined as that process of assistance that enables one or more people to go through the process of finding solutions to their concerns or difficulties. Counselling may take various forms, including with individuals, couples, families or groups. Counsellors undergo basic education and training to qualify them to be recognized within the context of health and social services.

Professional Title	Academic requirements	Experience requirements	Scope of Practice
Licensed Counselling Associate	Diploma in counselling	Completing 100 hours of client contact in a supervised setting	Under direct supervision of a Licensed Counselor, Specialist counselor, Licensed Psychotherapist <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide short term supportive counselling (excluding psychotherapy) in a range of counselling environments with diverse individuals and groups. 2. Spot possible mental health disorders and refer clients to the appropriate professionals. No attempt to diagnose or treat mental health disorders should be made. 3. Apply effective communication and competency-based counselling approaches finding strengths and resilience to facilitate mental health and wellness.
Licensed Assistant Counsellor	Bachelor's degree in Counseling	Post Bachelor's degree in Counseling experience of 300 hours client contact (face to face plus community service) in a supervised setting	Under indirect supervision of a Licensed Counselor, Specialist counselor, Licensed Psychotherapist <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide short term supportive counselling (excluding psychotherapy) in a range of counselling environments with diverse individuals and groups. 2. Identify (but not diagnose or treat) possible mental health disorders and refer clients to the appropriate professionals.

			3. Apply effective communication and competency-based counselling approaches finding strengths and resilience to facilitate mental health and wellness.
Professional Title	Academic requirements	Experience requirements	Scope of Practice
<p>Licensed Counselor</p> <p>Individuals holding a bachelor's in counseling degree and who are registered currently as Counselors in the Councils register are eligible to the above title.</p> <p>However to progress as specialist counselors they must fulfill specified academic and professional experience requirements</p>	To be a Licensed Counselor an applicant should possess a Master's degree in Counseling with bachelor's degree in counselling or counselling related field.	Post Master's degree in Counseling experience of 500 hours of client contact in a related field	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide short-term supportive counselling services to protect and promote psychological wellbeing. 2. Perform psychological screening, primary mental status screening, basic assessment and referral and management strategies. 3. Promote psychosocial health and community based care with individuals, families and communities in diverse settings. 4. Perform primary mental health interventions. 5. Participate in the design, implementation, management, and evaluation of psychologically-based programmes that are appropriate for individuals or groups in community contexts. 6. Clinical supervision of Licensed Counselling Associate and Licensed Assistant Counsellor <p>A licensed counsellor cannot do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treatment of diagnosable mental health issues. • Diagnostic assessments
Professional Title	Academic requirements	Experience requirements	Scope of Practice
<p>Mentioned below are Specialist counselors</p> <p>Licensed</p>	To be a specialist counsellor applicant should possess minimum academic requirements as a Licensed	Post Master's degree in Counseling experience of 500 hours of client contact in a chosen specialty area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychotherapy 	Specialist counselors can <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide short-term and long term supportive counselling services to protect and promote psychological wellbeing.

<p>Psychotherapeutic Counselor</p> <p>Licensed Mental Health Counselor</p> <p>Licensed Marriage and Family Counselors</p> <p>Licensed Addiction counselors</p> <p>Licensed Domestic Violence counselors</p>	<p>Counsellor and additionally must have completed specialist modules and training in a specialty area including clinically supervised practicum</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health Counseling • Marriage and Family Counselling • Addiction counseling • Domestic Violence Counseling <p>For program of professional and clinical experience or training in a specialty area attained abroad it must be recognized by the related professional bodies governing registration and licensing of behavior science professionals of that country. If such a professional body does not exist then recognition from a professionals association will be required. If such a professional association does not exist then the Maldives Allied Health Council will at its discretion decide on the recognition of the professional clinical experience</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Perform psychological screening, primary mental status screening, basic assessment and referral and management strategies. 3. Promote psychosocial health and community based care with individuals, families and communities in diverse settings. 4. Perform primary mental health interventions. 5. Participate in the design, implementation, management, and evaluation of psychologically-based programmes that are appropriate for individuals or groups in community contexts. 6. Clinical supervision of Licensed Counselling Associate and Licensed Assistant Counsellor 7. Supervision of clinical experience hours of lower professional titles in this pathway 8. Appear in court of law as an expert witness 9. Conduct diagnostic assessments
<p>Licensed Psychotherapist</p>	<p>To be a licensed psychotherapist the applicant should possess minimum academic requirements as a Specialist Counsellor</p>	<p>Seven years of experience practicing psychotherapy</p>	<p>A licensed psychotherapist can do the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat diagnosable mental health issues. Mostly in-depth therapy sessions. • Behavior therapy • Career counselling • Stress management

	<p>Alternatively, a Doctoral degree in Counselling or Psychotherapy in addition to meeting minimum academic and experience requirements of a Specialist Counsellor Including completion of a program of professional and clinical experience which is recognized widely and internationally for licensing and registration of psychotherapists.</p>	<p>No further professional experience is required for registration and licensing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis intervention • Advocacy/awareness programs • Psychosocial support • Support groups • Parenting sessions • Clinical supervision of lower professional title holders in this pathway
		<p>For program of professional and clinical experience attained abroad it must be recognized by the related professional bodies governing registration and licensing of behavior science professionals of that country. If such a professional body does not exist then recognition from a professionals association will be required. If such a professional association does not exist then the Maldives Allied Health Council will at its discretion decide on the recognition of the professional clinical experience</p>	

3) Behavioral Therapist Registration and License Pathway

Behavioral therapists, work with clients who have behavior problems such as anorexia, phobias, obesity, and troubled interpersonal relationships. They concentrate on the maladaptive behavior and what caused it to help clients learn new, more appropriate behaviors. Behavior therapy utilize conditioning practices to assist individuals in adjusting their behavior. They also work with individuals with developmental disabilities.

Professional Title	Academic requirements	Experience requirements	Scope of Practice
Licensed Assistant Behavior Therapist	Applicant should possess a bachelor's degree in , Behavioral Psychology or, Applied Behavior Analysis with a clinical supervised practicum	Post qualification experience of 300 hours client contact (face to face plus community service) in a supervised setting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under supervision of Licensed Behavior Therapist assist to develop treatment program that addresses any number of behavioral issues such as phobias, addictions, or even anxiety or mood disorders.
Licensed Behavior Therapist	Applicant should possess a Master's degree in Behavioral Psychology or Applied Behavior Analysis with a clinical supervised practicum and a bachelor's degree. The latter means a bachelor's degree in a) Applied Behavior Analysis or b) Counselling or c) Psychology d) combination of Counselling and psychology or e) Social work	Post qualification experience of 500 hours of client contact in behavior therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with special populations of students, such as those with severe behavioral difficulties, to design and implement treatment and intervention programs to help the pupil be more successful in school and in life in general develop treatment program that addresses any number of behavioral issues such as anger management, special needs, phobias, addictions, or even anxiety or mood disorders.

Additional Requirements for Psychology, Counselling, Psychotherapy and Behavior Therapist Professionals

Experience aspects

- A. For all the professionals registered in any of the pathways
 - a. Individual or group supervision of 1 hour must be completed for every 20 client hours
 - b. Professional development of 10 hours must be completed each year.
- B. Psychologists must demonstrate core competence in the following areas: Core competency means the range of applied knowledge and skills common to all areas of psychology practice that are necessary for general registration.
 - 1. knowledge of the discipline
 - 2. ethical, legal and professional matters in local context
 - 3. psychological assessment and measurement
 - 4. intervention strategies
 - 5. research and evaluation
 - 6. communication and interpersonal relationships
 - 7. working with people from diverse groups
 - 8. practice across the lifespan
- C. The council may require the applicant to undergo additional professional clinical experience, provide evidence of required experience, set an educational requirement, a competency assessment, or an interview before license is provided.

Educational standards

- A. Applicants having criteria that closely match the criteria stated above including alternative academic pathways and experience may apply to the council. The council shall have discretion to reject any application that does not meet the academic or experience requirements.
- B. The Bachelor's psychology or a counseling degree should be at Maldives National Qualification Framework Level 7 for a Bachelor's degree
- C. Core Modules to have studied in a psychology bachelor's degree
 - 1. Introduction to psychology/general psychology/ introduction to behavior and evolution
 - 2. Developmental psychology/ human developmental psychology/ biological psychology/ child psychology/ lifespan/
 - 3. Cognitive psychology/ behavioral neuroscience/ mind and behavior/ perception and cognition/ learning and memory
 - 4. Social psychology
 - 5. Abnormal psychology/ behavioral psychology
 - 6. Research methodology/ psychology project/ introduction to research
 - 7. Health psychology/ mental health/
 - 8. Personality psychology

- D. Following are core knowledge and competency areas expected in Bachelors Counseling programs
1. Introduction to Counseling
 2. Group Theory and Group Dynamics
 3. Counselling Processes and Practice
 4. Theories and Techniques of Counselling
 5. Group Facilitation and Group Counselling
 6. Ethics in Counselling
 7. Assessment Methods in Counselling
 8. Research Methods in Counselling
 9. Multicultural Counselling
 10. Family Counselling
 11. Understanding Psychological Disorders
 12. Practicum on General Counseling Skills
 13. Psychology of Personality Development
 14. Mental Health and Wellness
 15. Counselling for Addictions
 16. Crisis Counselling
 17. Counselling Placement
 18. Client Issues in Counselling
 19. An elective among the following Counselling Children, Counselling Adolescents, Counselling Older Persons, Counselling for Anxiety and Depression, Biological Influences on Human Behavior
- E. Masters degree in psychology, counselling, psychotherapy and behavior therapy should be at Maldives National Qualification Framework Level 9 for a Masters degree
- F. Following are core knowledge and competency areas expected in a Master's degree in Behavioral Psychology or Applied Behavior Analysis program
1. Measurement in behavioral science
 2. Experimental design
 3. Fundamental elements of Behavior change
 4. Specific behavior change procedures
 5. Behavior change systems
 6. Identification of problems
 7. Assessment
 8. Intervention
 9. Implementation, management and supervision

10. Client-centered responsibilities

G. Following are core knowledge and competency areas expected in a Masters Counseling programs

1. Counseling as a profession. This may include the professions history, philosophy, role and identity of professional counsellors and their relationships with other related professionals; role of professional organizations
2. Ethical and Legal Issues in Counseling
3. Counseling and Consultation Processes including:
 - Counseling theories that provide the student with a consistent framework to conceptualize client issues and identify and select appropriate counselling strategies and interventions.
 - An understanding of essential interviewing and counselling skills so that the student is able to establish an effective therapeutic relationship and develop and maintain appropriate professional boundaries. The student should be able to understand and apply effective counselling approaches and techniques to facilitate client exploration of issues, examination of alternate perspectives, and development of appropriate actions with respect to the issues presented. It is recognized that these involvements will also require a measure of student reflection and self-exploration. A pre-practicum experience of at least 40 hours of laboratory practice in basic counselling skills and simulated interviews is required of all students;
 - a systems perspective that recognizes that all clients are part of larger societal, colleague, friendship and family systems. Curricular experiences are provided regarding systems theories (including family theories) and related approaches and strategies;
 - a general model of consultation. This should include issues related to the development of consultation models, ways in which counselling and consultation approaches differ, strategies for effective consultation, and the opportunity to apply theoretical models to practice; and
 - ethical and legal issues related to counselling and consultation.
4. Group Counseling - Understanding and ethical application of group counselling approaches, including:
 - theories related to group counselling, including research evidence regarding the effectiveness of various group approaches;
 - group goals, function, structure and processes, including communication, norms, decision-making, problem solving and conflict management;
 - phases of group development and related interventions;
 - issues to consider in developing a group, including purpose, selection criteria and methods, member needs and roles, leader approaches and skills, group processes, group design, group activities, methods of evaluating effectiveness;
 - issues related to the preparation and supervision of group leaders; and
 - ethical and legal issues related to group counselling.
5. Human Development and Learning, including:
 - an understanding of the application of theories of human development in understanding and working with individuals, families and groups experiencing developmental transitions across the lifespan;
 - an understanding of the application of learning theory and theories of personality in a variety of counselling and consultation processes;

- an understanding of developmental issues, challenges and crises including, addiction, psychopathology, disabling conditions, etc; and
 - ethical and legal considerations.
6. Diversity - Understanding and respecting human including:
- variability in age, gender, culture and ethnicity, race, religion, physical and psychical ability, socioeconomic status
 - issues and trends affecting diverse groups;
 - individual, family and group strategies with diverse populations; and
 - ethical and legal considerations.
7. Assessment Processes, including:
- knowledge related to the evolution of the development of individual and group assessment instruments and processes;
 - knowledge of basic concepts of measurement theory, including reliability and validity and related statistical concepts;
 - knowledge and the ability to use a variety of assessment approaches, including standardized and non-standardized instruments, computer based approaches, observational methods, etc;
 - an understanding of the influences of issues of diversity regarding appraisal;
 - an ability to appropriately select, apply and interpret appraisal techniques and instruments within counselling and consultation processes; and
 - ethical and legal issues related to assessment.
8. Research Methods, including:
- knowledge of basic principles of qualitative and quantitative research design, along with related processes of data analysis;
 - an understanding of challenges involved in conducting counselling research;
 - knowledge of the influence of issues of diversity related to conducting research; and
 - ethical and legal issues involved in research.
9. Program Evaluation, including an understanding of how to conduct needs assessments, specify program objectives and evaluate the impact of counselling programs.
10. Practicum requirements of the program
11. Narrative or specific therapies module

Definitions used in Counseling and psychotherapy

Mental Health Counselor: Mental health counselors work with individuals, couples, families, and larger groups to discuss and help treat emotional and mental issues.

Marriage and family counselors are mental health professionals that provide psychotherapy services and support to individual clients as well as couples and families. These healthcare providers work in a variety of settings, including schools, hospitals, outpatient care facilities, substance abuse treatment centers, and in private practices. Marriage and family counselors address a range of client issues. They may treat children with attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, adolescents with eating disorders, adults with post-traumatic stress disorder, couples dealing with infidelity, and families struggling with divorce

Addiction counselors help individuals overcome dependence on drugs, alcohol, and destructive behaviors. They may also work with the families of addicts to assist the healing process. These professionals may work in outpatient facilities, inpatient rehabilitation centers, halfway houses, or hospitals.

Domestic violence counselors assess situations and advise and assist individuals facing domestic abuse and violence. They work with victims of domestic violence to help them leave abusive relationships and overcome the effects of trauma. They may work in shelters, mental health facilities, schools, and law enforcement agencies to help individuals experiencing (or who have experienced) domestic violence. These counselors may also work with perpetrators to break the cycle of violence.

Mental Health Counseling. “The practice of mental health counseling is the use of scientific and applied behavioral science theories, methods, and techniques for the purpose of describing, preventing, and treating undesired behavior and enhancing mental health and human development. Such practice includes the use of methods of a psychological nature to evaluate, assess, diagnose, and treat emotional and mental dysfunctions or disorders, whether cognitive, affective or behavioral; behavioural disorders; interpersonal relationships; sexual dysfunction; alcoholism; and substance abuse. It may also include clinical research. Mental health counseling treatment includes, but is not limited to counseling, psychotherapy, behavior modification, hypnotherapy, consultation, client advocacy, crisis intervention, providing needed information and education to clients. The terms “diagnose” and “treat” as used in this pathway shall not be construed to permit the performance of any act which mental health counselors are not educated and trained to perform.

Psychological counseling intervention Screen, assess, psychological education and training and referral.

Screening the investigation of a possible disruption to a client’s psychological wellbeing and early identification of mental health challenges.

Supportive- counseling that assists by alleviating traumatic responses and/or assists clients to adjust to altered circumstances