

## HelpPro Database

HelpPro (<http://www.helppro.com>) touts itself as being the “place to find the most comprehensive information about therapists and services across the country.” Therapists and organizations can list themselves in the databases for a nominal charge and may update it whenever necessary. HelpPro allows the user to search for mental health provider information, as well as community resources such as support groups, prevention programs, residential schools, hospitals, state agencies, and outpatient treatment centers. The information can be found quickly, easily, and the searches are free of charge.

The database offers two search options: 1) The Therapist or Group Finder, which is designed to find a psychologist, social worker, psychiatrist, mental health counselor, or group in your area that meets specific needs pertinent to your case; and 2) The National Social Worker Finder (<http://www.helpstartshere.org>), developed in conjunction with the National Association of Social Workers, which is designed to find licensed social workers and clinical social workers with special credentials.

As an example of the type of search you can do and information you can expect to find, consider the social worker database. It offers the option to search for the following: social workers within 25 to 90 miles of the zip code pertinent to your case; specialty area (e.g., attachment disorders); age group focus (e.g., adolescent); and method of payment. (Hint: leave information other than zip code “blank” to expand the search.) You will retrieve a list of social workers from which to choose. Select one and “click”. You will be able to find the following information: office location, contact information, office hours, years of experience for the “expert” you’re viewing, standard fees per session (at this point, you would ask if the service provider will accept the State rate), accepted payment options, accepted insurance providers, degrees, professional associations, areas of expertise, age group expertise, theoretical approach, main practice or focus area, expertise with specific populations, multi-cultural or religious expertise, accessibility options, and within what time frame you can expect a return phone call.

For more information about HelpPro, visit <http://www.helppro.com>, and click on the About Help Pro link at the top right hand corner of the page. While we do not vogue for the accuracy of the information on the database, we pass on the website information in the hope that it aids you in your search for qualified experts. We would appreciate it if you let Jennifer Nealon (585/530-3177 or [jnealon@courts.state.ny.us](mailto:jnealon@courts.state.ny.us)) know how it worked for you.