

# JAMES J. DeSANTIS, JD, LCSW

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## SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS:

*Accomplished licensed clinical social worker with experience in the application of multi-disciplinary skills involving issues in mental health counseling, public advocacy, special education and law. Core competencies include:*

- Individual & Family Counseling
- Child Welfare Advocacy
- Forensic Social Work
- Crisis Intervention
- Addiction Counseling
- Couples Counseling
- Special Education Law
- Hospital Case Management
- Group Therapy
- Co-Occurring Disorders
- Chronic Mental Illnesses
- Developmental Disabilities
- Special Needs Planning
- Community Resources
- Mental Health Counseling
- Biopsychosocial Assessment
- Hospital Social Work
- Child Therapy
- Care Coordination
- Public Speaking
- Strategic Analysis/Planning

## EDUCATION:

**Rutgers University Graduate School of Social Work**, New Brunswick, New Jersey

*Master of Social Work, (M.S.W.), 2015*

- New Jersey Licensed Clinical Social Worker
- New Jersey School Social Worker Certification

**Seton Hall University School of Law**, Newark, New Jersey

*Juris Doctor, (J.D.), 2001*

**Rutgers University**, Newark, New Jersey

*Bachelor of Arts, (B.A.), Psychology, 1997*

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

### **CLINICAL EXPERIENCE**

**DeSantis Counseling**, Montclair, New Jersey

January 2019 to Present

Psychotherapist

- Provide individual psychotherapeutic counseling to private clients for a variety of issues.

**Integrity House**, Newark, New Jersey

2017 to Present

Counselor

- Provide supportive psychotherapy, ongoing assessment and treatment planning, case management, and symptom management to clients with addiction issues, as well as serious and persistent mental illnesses and behavioral issues.
- Maintain accurate and timely documentation in the form of assessments, treatment plans, progress notes, and client records as required by agency policy and State/Federal Law.
- Attend and participate in regular trainings and staff meetings.

**Therapeutic Services, LLC**, Montclair, New Jersey

2014 to Present

Social Skills Group Facilitator

- Facilitate children's groups focused on teaching and improving social interaction skills.
- Provide ongoing assessment and treatment planning, as well as extensive parental feedback.

**Rutgers University Behavioral Healthcare**, New Brunswick, New Jersey 2016 to 2017

*Mental Health Clinician*

- Provided supportive psychotherapy, ongoing assessment and treatment planning, case management, and symptom management to forensic clients with serious and persistent mental illnesses, as well as addiction and behavioral issues.

**Easter Seals New Jersey**, East Brunswick, New Jersey 2015 to 2016

*Supportive Housing Case Manager*

- Provided supportive psychotherapy, ongoing assessment and treatment planning, case management, symptom management, medication monitoring, and crisis intervention including afterhours hotline coverage to clients with serious and persistent mental illnesses and developmental disabilities.

**Kindred Hospital**, Rahway, New Jersey 2014 to 2015

*Social Work Graduate Clinician*

- Provided psychotherapy, supportive counseling, and grief counseling to terminally ill patients and their families at a private long-term acute care facility (LTAC).

**Children's Aid & Family Services**, South Orange, New Jersey. 2013 to 2014

*Social Worker Graduate Clinician*

- Provided individual, group and family psychotherapeutic counseling to at-risk children with behavioral and emotional problems.

**Legal Experience**

**The DeSantis Law Firm**, Paramus, New Jersey; New York, New York 2006 to 2013

*Principal Attorney*

- Founded and managed an independent law practice providing legal services to children with special needs and their families, working closely with parents, educators, and clinicians in advocating, promoting partnerships, and building consensus as to appropriate educational responses and necessary legal actions.

**Supreme Court of New Jersey**, Trenton, New Jersey 2009 to 2011

*Mediation Counselor*

- Aided borrowers and lenders in resolving mortgage disputes, thereby helping homeowners avoid foreclosure by proposing workout and payment arrangements that balanced the interests of all parties.

**COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP/VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE:**

**Children's Dyslexia Centers of New Jersey**, Tenafly, New Jersey 2012-2015

*Board of Governors*

- Provided counseling, strategic planning and oversight to a non-profit offering no-charge tutoring to children diagnosed with dyslexia from elementary through high school levels.

**Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)**, Fort Dix, New Jersey 2012-2015

*Employer Outreach Coordinator*

- Provided leadership and support in the development of creative initiatives on behalf of the lead Department of Defense agency promoting cooperation and understanding between civilian employers and their employees in the National Guard and Reserves.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**National Association of Social Workers-NJ**, Atlantic City, New Jersey April 30, 2019

*Annual Conference-Borgata Hotel & Casino*

- "The Duty to Warn & Protect in New Jersey."