

DMH vs Private Practice: PROS and CONS

	DMH		Priv Prac	
	PROS	CONS	PROS	CONS
\$\$\$	Salary, Vacation, Health Insurance, Pension	Billing pressures (you have to meet a minimum billing requirement)	Upward pay, especially once licensed.	At least \$15,000 less than DMH salary. Direct result of your efforts. Extra costs. May need to work at other PT jobs. You'll also need to pay for your own health insurance, malpractice insurance, and other costs
Referrals	Unlimited, gain hours quickly			Requires active marketing efforts; may take time to build up your client load
Clientele	More opportunities to see all diagnoses	Assigned	Choose who you would like to work with	Generally limited in Diagnoses
Community	Large Community, opp to learn from many supervisors and colleagues			Usually limited, so you have to make efforts to build therapist community, unless at Group practice
Training	Many different trainings, especially in Evidence Based Practices, all funded by the DMH agency			Usually need to find and pay out of pocket
Specialization		Limited	Freedom, especially the ability to work with couples and see the kind of Diagnoses you want to specialize in	
Supervision		More Admin Mindset. Focused on paperwork due to Quality Assurance goals. After your supervisor trusts you with your ability to do paperwork well, you'll have more time to move into other areas of supervision.	More Coach, Teacher, Mentor Mindset. focused more on development, self of the therapist.	
Schedule	Generally M - F	Fixed hours, little flexibility	Flexible, set by you. Work PT, have less clients	You'll likely have to work Evenings and/or Weekends
Paperwork	You learn to do thorough assessments and you learn to be disciplined and efficient.	A lot. Very detailed, with deadlines.	Minimal paperwork requirement	No deadlines, very little accountability, so you can get lazy or sloppy with paperwork

*Revised May2020, Fuller Department of Marriage and Family Therapy