

Georgia Composite Medical Board



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The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the licensure provisions of the Genetic Counselors Act (“Act”) will become effective January 1, 2020. If you are currently practicing as a Genetic Counselor in Georgia, you will have until February 29, 2020 to start the application process by submitting your application for licensure. This Act requires that, unless exempt from licensing under the Act, no person shall practice genetic counseling in this state or and hold him or herself out as being able to practice such profession without a license in the state of Georgia. Failure to apply within this time frame may subject you to disciplinary action by the Board.

Attached are the application instructions and forms to complete for licensure in Georgia. Two types of licenses will be available to genetic counselors wishing to practice in this State. Please read the information below to determine which license you will need to apply for.

A. **TEMPORARY LICENSURE.**

A temporary license may be issued to an individual who has made application to the board, **has submitted evidence to the board of admission to examination for licensure**, and has met all of the requirements for licensure in accordance with this Code section, except for the examination requirement. The holder of a temporary license shall practice only under the **supervision of a qualified supervisor and may not have the authority to order genetic tests. The temporary license is only valid for eighteen (18) months.**

'Qualified supervisor' means any person licensed as a genetic counselor under this article or any licensed physician.

'Supervision' means the overall responsibility of a qualified supervisor to assess the work of the genetic counselor with a temporary license, including regular meetings and chart review, if an annual supervision contract signed by the supervisor and the temporarily licensed genetic counselor is on file with both parties. The supervisor's presence shall not be required during the performance of the service.

B. **LICENSURE FOR APPLICANTS WHO ARE CERTIFIED AS A GENETIC COUNSELOR.**

1. This license only applies to individuals who have successfully completed the ABGC or ABMG certification examination or the examination provided by a successor entity to the ABGC or ABMG.
2. Applicants for licensure as a genetic counselor must submit an application on a form approved by the Board, submit an application fee, and submit an affidavit that the applicant is a United States citizen, a legal permanent resident of the United States, or that he/she is a qualified alien or non-immigrant under the Federal Immigration and Nationality Act.
3. An applicant for licensure as a genetic counselor must be at least 21 years of age.

4. Has not engaged in conduct or activities which would constitute grounds for discipline under this article;
5. Has successfully completed:
 - (A) A master's degree in genetic counseling from an ACGC, ABGC, or ABMG accredited training program or an equivalent program approved by the ACGC, ABGC, or ABMG.
 - OR**
 - (B) A doctoral degree and an ABMG accredited medical genetics training program or an equivalent program approved by the ABMG;
6. Has successfully completed the ABGC or ABMG certification examination or the examination provided by a successor entity to the ABGC or ABMG;

The Board is still in the process of finalizing the Rules for Genetic Counselors. Please check the Board's website at <https://medicalboard.georgia.gov/board/notice-intent-amendadopt-rules> for a copy of the proposed Rules.

On behalf of the Board, we thank you in advance for applying for licensure as a Genetic Counselor to serve the citizens of Georgia.

If you require additional information, please contact Phyllis White, Executive Assistant, via e-mail at pwhite@dch.ga.gov at 404-463-6875.

Sincerely,



LaSharn Hughes, MBA
Executive Director

Enclosures: **Genetic Counselors Application Instructions and Forms**