
Genetic Counselor Licensure in Michigan Points to Consider

Genetic Counselor Licensure will provide Michigan citizens:

- Assurance that individuals using the title genetic counselor have attained minimum education and certification standards.
- Assurance that genetic counselors maintain a minimum level of continuing education.
- Increased access and lower costs to consumers for genetic services.^{1,2}
- Reduction in the likelihood of causing harm by receiving inaccurate information about genetic risks from individuals who do not meet these minimum education and certification standards.³
- A mechanism by which claims of incompetent, unethical, unlawful behavior of a genetic counselor can be reported and investigated as well as provide a means to sanction a genetic counselor for proven offenses of these claims and/or for operating outside of their scope of practice.

To accomplish these goals, a genetic counselor licensure bill must require the following:

- A Masters or higher degree from a genetic counseling program accredited by the American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC) or equivalent program
- Certification or Active Candidate Status by the American Board of Genetic Counseling/Medical Genetics
- A minimum level of continuing education in order to maintain a license
- Exemption from licensure for other licensed healthcare providers whose scope of practice overlaps that of genetic counselors.
- Adherence to a professional code of ethics (e.g. National Society of Genetic Counselors' Code of Ethics).

¹Report of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society: Coverage and Reimbursement of Genetic Tests and Services. 2006, p B-3-15.

²Gibbons, A. Employer-based coverage of genetic counseling services. *Benefits Quarterly*. 2004, p.48-58.

³Report of the Secretary's Advisory Committee on Genetics, Health, and Society: Coverage and Reimbursement of Genetic Tests and Services. 2006, p 51-52.



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