

**LICENSURE FOR [State] GENETIC COUNSELORS**

Approximately [#] genetic counselors currently live or work in [State]. More than [Percent] of [State’s] genetic counselors work full- or part-time in a clinical setting and provide genetic counseling services to patients. Several organizations including [List of Supporters] support licensure for genetic counselors.

**Who Are Genetic Counselors?**

* Genetic counselors are healthcare professionals who have a specialized graduate degree, academic training, and experience in both medical genetics and counseling.

**What Medical Services do Genetic Counselors Provide?**

* Genetic counselors work with physicians, as part of a multidisciplinary team, or independently, to provide genetics services to families and/or individuals.
* Genetic counselors consult with patients and families in reproductive genetics, pediatric genetics, cancer genetics, cardiovascular genetics, neurogenetics, and other genetics settings.
* Genetic counselors provide genetic counseling for patients and families at increased risk for a variety of genetic conditions with onset at birth through adulthood.
* Genetic counselors evaluate and assess risk for a genetic condition, educate patients about the condition and available management options, facilitate genetic testing and test interpretation when available and appropriate, and assess and address the psychosocial impact of a genetic condition in order to help families adapt.

**Why Do Genetic Counselors Need to be Licensed?**

* [State] currently has no legal standard to determine who can represent themselves as genetic counselors.
* Licensure would protect the citizens of [State] by ensuring that genetic counselors practicing in [State]:
  + Have appropriate training in medical genetics and genetic counseling
  + Are certified by the American Board of Genetic Counseling or the American Board of Medical Genetics
  + Collect a minimum number of continuing education units to stay up to date in the rapidly changing field of genetics.
* Licensure would also create a means for [State] to regulate genetic counseling services.
* [State] would define what genetic counselors can do
* [State] would prevent unqualified individuals from practicing genetic counseling within the state
* [State] could suspend or revoke licenses of genetic counselors who cause harm to citizens of [State] through inadequate genetic counseling.
* Licensure will positively impact the [State’s] economy:
* Genetic counselors ensure appropriate tests are ordered and interpreted to facilitate proper medical management while reducing healthcare costs
* Licensure would help attract trained genetic counselors to [State]
* *(Add only if relevant to your state)* Licensure would be budget-neutral for [State], as the cost of regulation will be offset by the fees collected for obtaining a license.