

## Genetic Counselors Licensing Board

### Board/Commission Members:

- Heather Hussey-Johnson, Boise - Chair
- Dr. Jack Zarybnisky, O.D., Burley – Public Member
- Jennifer Nicole Eichmeyer, Boise
- Dr. Thomas M. Beck, M.D., Boise

**Board/Commission Composition:** The Board consists of four (4) members: two (2) licensed genetic counselors; one (1) licensed physician; and one (1) public member. As the Board was recently created, the current Board members are serving initial staggered-terms. Thereafter, future appointments will serve a three (3) year term. [Idaho Code § 54-5606](#).

**Operating costs per licensee: \$154.03.** This number represents the dollar amount required annually to serve each applicant or licensee based on the average number of licensees and the average expenditures since Fiscal Year 2016. This includes all administrative, fiscal, legal, and investigative services.

**Total number** of current licensees in Idaho on May 19, 2018: 77.

For the Genetic Counselors Licensing Board, the **shortest time** from complete application to issuing a license was **same day**. The **longest time** from complete application to issuing a license was **32 days**. Of all licenses, **17.9 percent** were issued the **same day**. The **average time** from complete application to issuing a license was **7.6 days**. The Board issued **28 licenses** between May 19, 2017 and May 19, 2018.

**Note:** All Board meetings are subject to Idaho's Open Meeting Law. The law requires a minimum of five (5) calendar days' notice for regular meetings, and a forty-eight (48) hour notice for the agenda. Special meetings require twenty-four (24) hour meeting and agenda notice. [Idaho Code § 74-204](#).

## Genetic Counselors Licensing Board

### A. Index of Statute, Rule, and Policy Requirements for Licensure and Renewal

		Statute <a href="#">Title 54,</a> <a href="#">Chapter 56</a>	Rule IDAPA <a href="#">24.24.01</a>	<i>*Policy</i>	Application	Basis to Deny Issuance or Renewal	Fees
Genetic Counselors	Issuance for Initial License	I.C. <a href="#">§ 54-5608</a> I.C. <a href="#">§ 54-5609</a>	<a href="#">IDAPA</a> <a href="#">24.24.01.300</a>  <a href="#">IDAPA</a> <a href="#">24.24.01.310</a>	*	<a href="#">Application</a>  <a href="#">Endorsement Application</a>	I.C. <a href="#">§ 54-5614</a>	<a href="#">Application Fee: \$200</a> <a href="#">Endorsement Fee: \$200</a> <a href="#">Original License Fee: \$200</a>
	Renewal Requirements	I.C. <a href="#">§ 54-5612</a>	<a href="#">IDAPA</a> <a href="#">24.24.01.400</a>  <a href="#">IDAPA</a> <a href="#">24.24.01.500</a>	*		I.C. <a href="#">§ 54-5614</a> and <a href="#">§ 67-2614</a>	<a href="#">\$200 Renewal Fee</a>
Provisional License	Issuance for Initial License	I.C. <a href="#">§ 54-5610</a>	<a href="#">IDAPA</a> <a href="#">24.24.01.311</a>	*	<a href="#">Application</a>	I.C. <a href="#">§ 54-5614</a>	<a href="#">Application Fee: \$200</a> <a href="#">Provisional Fee: \$200</a>
	Renewal Requirements	I.C. <a href="#">§ 54-5612</a>	<a href="#">IDAPA</a> <a href="#">24.24.01.400</a>  <a href="#">IDAPA</a> <a href="#">24.24.01.500</a>	*		I.C. <a href="#">§ 54-5614</a> and <a href="#">§ 67-2614</a>	<a href="#">\$200 Renewal Fee</a>

*\*All of the Board's requirements for licensure and renewal are in the statute or rule. The board does not have any requirements in policy.*

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### B. Applications and Renewals Denied, May 19, 2017-May 19, 2018

Refusal to Issue Initial License [Total Number: 0]

	<b>Statutory Basis</b>	<b>Summary of Factual Basis</b>
	None	

Refusal to Renew License [Total Number: 0]

	<b>Statutory Basis</b>	<b>Summary of Factual Basis</b>
	None	

### C. Disciplinary Actions for the Past Five (5) Years

The Genetic Counselors Licensing Board received **1 complaint** since the Board was established by the Legislature in 2015. That complaint was closed by the Board with no disciplinary action. The Board did not take any disciplinary action between May 19, 2017 and May 19, 2018.

<b>Case No.</b>	<b>Date of Final Action</b>	<b>Action Taken</b>	<b>Statutory Basis</b>	<b>Summary of Factual Basis</b>
None				

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### D. Changes or Attempted Changes in the Last Five (5) Years to Eliminate Barriers to Entry

#### Law and Rule

Session	Legislation or Rule	Summary
2015	<a href="#">Senate Bill 1080</a>	The Legislature created licensure for genetic counselors in 2015.
2016	<a href="#">Docket No. 24-2401-1501</a>	The Board promulgated rules to implement Senate Bill 1080.
2018	<a href="#">Docket No. 24-2401-1701</a>	<p><b>Fee Reduction:</b> This rule change reduced the fees for application, original license, annual renewal, provisional license, and license by endorsement, lowering each from \$500 to \$200.</p> <p><b>Impact:</b> The fees were lowered because the Board's revenues were exceeding its expenses and the Board wanted to leave more money in the hands of the licensees.</p>

#### Additional Barriers Removed/Opportunities Provided

Date	Barrier/Opportunity	Summary
2017	Implemented Idaho Code for military service and added it to the Board's website	<p>I.C. <a href="#">§ 67-2620</a> For military service members and veterans, the Board added to its website a link to a law that says the Board may accept military training and experience toward qualification for licensure. <b>The law states that professional and occupational licensing boards may accept military education, training, and experience toward meeting the qualifications for a license, certification or registration.</b> Boards may also expedite applications, including military spouse applications.</p> <p>I.C. <a href="#">§ 67-2602A</a> Additionally, if a licensee already holds an active Idaho license and is on active duty in the United States Armed Forces, that license will remain active without renewing it <b>for six (6) months following discharge from active duty. The license shall remain in good standing without the necessity of renewal and during said period the same shall not be cancelled, suspended or revoked.</b></p>

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### Additional Barriers Removed/Opportunities Provided (continued)

Date	Barrier/Opportunity	Summary
2015	Grandfather licensure clause via <a href="#">Senate Bill 1080</a>	I.C. <a href="#">§ 54-5611</a> As the Legislature considered licensing Genetic Counselors, bill sponsors worked with the Bureau of Occupational Licenses on the model law template. The model law template allows for grandfathering.
2015	Telehealth Access Act	Allows practitioners to offer telehealth services ( <a href="#">Title 54, Chapter 57</a> )

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### **E. Assessment of Public Interest**

Genetic counselors are healthcare professionals with specialized graduate degrees and extensive training in medical genetics and counseling. Genetic counselors work as members of a healthcare team, providing risk assessment, education and support to individuals and families at risk for, or diagnosed with, a variety of inherited conditions. Providing genetic services to individuals and their families is a complex endeavor that involves not only making diagnoses and treatment decisions but also eliciting a detailed family and medical history, assessing genetic risk, interpreting complex genetic testing results, providing supportive counseling, and educating families about complicated genetic information. Patients rely on the expertise of genetic counselors when making significant medical decisions, which may include major prophylactic surgeries, lifesaving medical treatments or fertility options. Since many of these decisions are life-altering, patients rely on genetic counselors to provide accurate and unbiased information. With increasing complexities in genetics and genetic testing, and the availability of direct-to-consumer and internet-based genetic testing, it is important to ensure Idahoans are treated by qualified genetics professionals. Patients should feel confident that the genetic services they receive are provided by trained and competent professionals. Licensure is central to assuring the public is informed of those appropriately trained in genetic counseling as well as improving access to genetic specialty providers. Given that genetic counselors play an increasing role in health care delivery, including reduced healthcare costs, licensure provides protections for patients and families to receive quality genetic services in the state of Idaho.

**F. Recommendations for Improvement, Modification, or Elimination of Requirements**

1. Grandfather licensure expired July 1, 2016. Update I.C. [§ 54-5611](#) and [IDAPA 24.24.01.310](#) to eliminate this provision, as it is no longer valid.

## Genetic Counselors Licensing Board

### Summary of Objectives

The Licensing Freedom Act asked that all of Idaho's professional licensing entities critically look at their processes, laws and rules. The goal is to document the elimination of barriers and make recommendations for future changes that improve, modify or eliminate laws and rules governing professional licensure. In response, the Genetic Counselors Licensing Board respectfully submits the above report and summarizes with a checklist to ensure all of the objectives were met:

#### Objectives of Executive Order

- ✓ Protect the public. (*Senate Bill 1080 [Statement of Purpose](#)*)
- ✓ Portability of licensure. (*Endorsement: I.C. [§ 54-5609](#) and [IDAPA 24.24.01.310](#)*)
- ✓ Eliminate barriers to entry to work. (*Provisional license: I.C. [§ 54-5610](#)*)
- ✓ Do away with unnecessary regulation. (*See Section F*)
- ✓ Modernize licensure and regulatory requirements. (*Implemented licensure in 2015 with model law and rules*)

#### Comprehensive Review - consider some of the issues raised in the background material, such as:

- ✓ Telework – Idaho has recently passed laws related to telehealth but other occupations may be facing similar issues regarding telework. (*Idaho Code [Title 54, Chapter 57](#)*)
- ✓ Distance/Online Learning/Testing – distance/online education and testing are increasingly available and may influence the resources that applicants or licensees can access to obtain education, continuing education or to test. (*Online continuing education, [IDAPA 24.24.01.010.09](#) and [IDAPA 24.24.01.500.01](#); online testing; provisional licensure, I.C. [§ 54-5610](#) and [IDAPA 24.24.01.311](#), allowing licensure candidates to work while waiting to take the exam*)
- ✓ Criminal History – What barriers or additional obstacles do applicants/licensees face who have a criminal conviction? Do our laws consider the relevance or proximity in time of a conviction to the individuals applying for licensure or for those currently in practice? (*The Board may consider factors and evidence for relevance to licensure, [IDAPA 24.24.01.306](#)*)
- ✓ Early Examination – What can be addressed in the timing of processes to eliminate unnecessary delays? (*Tests are offered online, and provisional licensure, I.C. [§ 54-5610](#) and [IDAPA 24.24.01.311](#), which allows people to work while waiting to take the exam*)
- ✓ CE Hardship – Is there an allowance for extenuating circumstances? (*Hardship waiver, [IDAPA 24.24.01.500.03](#)*)
- ✓ Temporary Permits – Are there opportunities to work while minimum requirements are being met? (*Provisional license, I.C. [§ 54-5610](#)*)