

AN ACT concerning professional regulation.

**Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,
represented in the General Assembly:**

Section 3. The Illinois Clinical Laboratory and Blood Bank Act is amended by changing Section 7-101 as follows:

(210 ILCS 25/7-101) (from Ch. 111 1/2, par. 627-101)

Sec. 7-101. Examination of specimens. A clinical laboratory shall examine specimens only at the request of (i) a licensed physician, (ii) a licensed dentist, (iii) a licensed podiatrist, (iv) a therapeutic optometrist for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes related to the use of diagnostic topical or therapeutic ocular pharmaceutical agents, as defined in subsections (c) and (d) of Section 15.1 of the Illinois Optometric Practice Act of 1987, (v) a licensed physician assistant in accordance with the written guidelines required under subdivision (3) of Section 4 and under Section 7.5 of the Physician Assistant Practice Act of 1987, (v-A) an advanced practice nurse in accordance with the written collaborative agreement required under Section 65-35 of the Nurse Practice Act, or (vi) an authorized law enforcement agency or, in the case of blood alcohol, at the request of the individual for whom the test is to be performed in compliance with Sections 11-501 and 11-501.1 of the Illinois Vehicle Code, or (vii) a

genetic counselor with the specific authority from a referral to order a test or tests pursuant to subsection (b) of Section 20 of the Genetic Counselor Licensing Act. If the request to a laboratory is oral, the physician or other authorized person shall submit a written request to the laboratory within 48 hours. If the laboratory does not receive the written request within that period, it shall note that fact in its records. For purposes of this Section, a request made by electronic mail or fax constitutes a written request.

(Source: P.A. 95-639, eff. 10-5-07.)

Section 5. The Genetic Counselor Licensing Act is amended by changing Sections 10, 20, 60, 90, and 95 as follows:

(225 ILCS 135/10)

(Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2015)

Sec. 10. Definitions. As used in this Act:

"ABGC" means the American Board of Genetic Counseling.

"ABMG" means the American Board of Medical Genetics.

"Active candidate status" is awarded to applicants who have received approval from the ABGC or ABMG to sit for their respective certification examinations.

"Department" means the Department of Professional Regulation.

"Director" means the Director of Professional Regulation.

"Genetic anomaly" means a variation in an individual's DNA

that has been shown to confer a genetically influenced disease or predisposition to a genetically influenced disease or makes a person a carrier of such variation. A "carrier" of a genetic anomaly means a person who may or may not have a predisposition or risk of incurring a genetically influenced condition and who is at risk of having offspring with a genetically influenced condition.

"Genetic counseling" means the provision of services, which may include the ordering of genetic tests, pursuant to a referral, to individuals, couples, groups, families, and organizations by one or more appropriately trained individuals to address the physical and psychological issues associated with the occurrence or risk of occurrence or recurrence of a genetic disorder, birth defect, disease, or potentially inherited or genetically influenced condition in an individual or a family. "Genetic counseling" consists of the following:

(A) Estimating the likelihood of occurrence or recurrence of a birth defect or of any potentially inherited or genetically influenced condition. This assessment may involve:

(i) obtaining and analyzing a complete health history of the person and his or her family;

(ii) reviewing pertinent medical records;

(iii) evaluating the risks from exposure to possible mutagens or teratogens;

(iv) recommending genetic testing or other

evaluations to diagnose a condition or determine the carrier status of one or more family members;

(B) Helping the individual, family, health care provider, or health care professional (i) appreciate the medical, psychological and social implications of a disorder, including its features, variability, usual course and management options, (ii) learn how genetic factors contribute to the disorder and affect the chance for recurrence of the condition in other family members, and (iii) understand available options for coping with, preventing, or reducing the chance of occurrence or recurrence of a condition.

(C) Facilitating an individual's or family's (i) exploration of the perception of risk and burden associated with the disorder and (ii) adjustment and adaptation to the condition or their genetic risk by addressing needs for psychological, social, and medical support.

"Genetic counselor" means a person licensed under this Act to engage in the practice of genetic counseling.

"Genetic testing" and "genetic test" mean a test or analysis of human genes, gene products, DNA, RNA, chromosomes, proteins, or metabolites that detects genotypes, mutations, chromosomal changes, abnormalities, or deficiencies, including carrier status, that (i) are linked to physical or mental disorders or impairments, (ii) indicate a susceptibility to illness, disease, impairment, or other disorders, whether

physical or mental, or (iii) demonstrate genetic or chromosomal damage due to environmental factors. "Genetic testing" and "genetic tests" do not include routine physical measurements; chemical, blood and urine analyses that are widely accepted and in use in clinical practice; tests for use of drugs; tests for the presence of the human immunodeficiency virus; analyses of proteins or metabolites that do not detect genotypes, mutations, chromosomal changes, abnormalities, or deficiencies; or analyses of proteins or metabolites that are directly related to a manifested disease, disorder, or pathological condition that could reasonably be detected by a health care professional with appropriate training and expertise in the field of medicine involved.

"Person" means an individual, association, partnership, or corporation.

"Qualified supervisor" means any person who is a licensed genetic counselor, as defined by rule, or a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches. A qualified supervisor may be provided at the applicant's place of work, or may be contracted by the applicant to provide supervision. The qualified supervisor shall file written documentation with the Department of employment, discharge, or supervisory control of a genetic counselor at the time of employment, discharge, or assumption of supervision of a genetic counselor.

"Referral" means a written or telecommunicated authorization for genetic counseling services from a physician

licensed to practice medicine in all its branches, an advanced practice nurse who has a collaborative agreement with a collaborating physician that authorizes referrals to a genetic counselor, or a physician assistant who has a supervision agreement with a supervising physician that authorizes referrals to a genetic counselor ~~who has been delegated authority to make referrals to genetic counselors.~~

"Supervision" means review of aspects of genetic counseling and case management in a bimonthly meeting with the person under supervision.

(Source: P.A. 93-1041, eff. 9-29-04; 94-661, eff. 1-1-06.)

(225 ILCS 135/20)

(Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2015)

Sec. 20. Restrictions and limitations.

(a) Beginning 12 months after the adoption of the final administrative rules, except as provided in Section 15, no person shall, without a valid license as a genetic counselor issued by the Department (i) in any manner hold himself or herself out to the public as a genetic counselor under this Act; (ii) use in connection with his or her name or place of business the title "genetic counselor", "licensed genetic counselor", "gene counselor", "genetic consultant", or "genetic associate" or any words, letters, abbreviations, or insignia indicating or implying a person has met the qualifications for or has the license issued under this Act; or

(iii) offer to render or render to individuals, corporations, or the public genetic counseling services if the words "genetic counselor" or "licensed genetic counselor" are used to describe the person offering to render or rendering them, or "genetic counseling" is used to describe the services rendered or offered to be rendered.

(b) Beginning 12 months after the adoption of the final administrative rules, no licensed genetic counselor may provide genetic counseling to individuals, couples, groups, or families without a referral from a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches, an advanced practice nurse who has a collaborative agreement with a collaborating physician that authorizes referrals to a genetic counselor, or a physician assistant who has been delegated authority to make referrals to genetic counselors. The physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician assistant shall maintain supervision of the patient and be provided timely written reports on the services, including genetic testing results, provided by the licensed genetic counselor. Genetic testing shall be ordered by a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches or a genetic counselor pursuant to a referral that gives the specific authority to order genetic tests. Genetic test results and reports shall be provided to the referring physician, advanced practice nurse, or physician assistant. General seminars or talks to groups or organizations on genetic counseling that do not include individual, couple,

or family specific counseling may be conducted without a referral. In clinical settings, genetic counselors who serve as a liaison between family members of a patient and a genetic research project, may, with the consent of the patient, provide information to family members for the purpose of gathering additional information, as it relates to the patient, without a referral. In non-clinical settings where no patient is being treated, genetic counselors who serve as a liaison between a genetic research project and participants in that genetic research project may provide information to the participants, without a referral.

(c) Beginning 12 months after the adoption of the final administrative rules, no association or partnership shall practice genetic counseling unless every member, partner, and employee of the association or partnership who practices genetic counseling or who renders genetic counseling services holds a valid license issued under this Act. No license shall be issued to a corporation, the stated purpose of which includes or which practices or which holds itself out as available to practice genetic counseling, unless it is organized under the Professional Service Corporation Act.

(d) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as permitting persons licensed as genetic counselors to engage in any manner in the practice of medicine in all its branches as defined by law in this State.

(e) Nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize a

licensed genetic counselor to diagnose, test (unless authorized in a referral), or treat any genetic or other disease or condition.

(f) When, in the course of providing genetic counseling services to any person, a genetic counselor licensed under this Act finds any indication of a disease or condition that in his or her professional judgment requires professional service outside the scope of practice as defined in this Act, he or she shall refer that person to a physician licensed to practice medicine in all of its branches.

(Source: P.A. 93-1041, eff. 9-29-04; 94-661, eff. 1-1-06.)

(225 ILCS 135/60)

(Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2015)

Sec. 60. Temporary licensure. A temporary license may be issued to an individual who has made application to the Department, has submitted evidence to the Department of admission to the certifying examination administered by the ABGC or the ABMG or either of its successor agencies, has met all of the requirements for licensure in accordance with Section 55 of this Act, except the examination requirement of item (4) of Section 55 of this Act, and has met any other condition established by rule. 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. Nothing in this Section prohibits an applicant

from re-applying for a temporary license if he or she meets the qualifications of this Section.

(Source: P.A. 93-1041, eff. 9-29-04; 94-661, eff. 1-1-06.)

(225 ILCS 135/90)

(Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2015)

Sec. 90. Privileged communications and exceptions.

(a) With the exception of disclosure to the physician performing or supervising a genetic test and to the referring physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches, advanced practice nurse, or physician assistant, no ~~no~~ licensed genetic counselor shall disclose any information acquired from persons consulting the counselor in a professional capacity, except that which may be voluntarily disclosed under any of the following circumstances:

(1) In the course of formally reporting, conferring, or consulting with administrative superiors, colleagues, or consultants who share professional responsibility, in which instance all recipients of the information are similarly bound to regard the communication as privileged.

(2) With the written consent of the person who provided the information and about whom the information concerns.

(3) In the case of death or disability, with the written consent of a personal representative.

(4) When a communication reveals the intended commission of a crime or harmful act and such disclosure is

judged necessary in the professional judgment of the licensed genetic counselor to protect any person from a clear risk of serious mental or physical harm or injury or to forestall a serious threat to the public safety.

(5) When the person waives the privilege by bringing any public charges or filing a lawsuit against the licensee.

(b) Any person having access to records or anyone who participates in providing genetic counseling services, or in providing any human services, or is supervised by a licensed genetic counselor is similarly bound to regard all information and communications as privileged in accord with this Section.

(c) The Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act is incorporated herein as if all of its provisions were included in this Act. In the event of a conflict between the application of this Section and the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act to a specific situation, the provisions of the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act shall control.

(Source: P.A. 93-1041, eff. 9-29-04.)

(225 ILCS 135/95)

(Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2015)

Sec. 95. Grounds for discipline.

(a) The Department may refuse to issue, renew, or may revoke, suspend, place on probation, reprimand, or take other

disciplinary action as the Department deems appropriate, including the issuance of fines not to exceed \$1,000 for each violation, with regard to any license for any one or more of the following:

(1) Material misstatement in furnishing information to the Department or to any other State agency.

(2) Violations or negligent or intentional disregard of this Act, or any of its rules.

(3) Conviction of any crime under the laws of the United States or any state or territory thereof that is a felony, a misdemeanor, an essential element of which is dishonesty, or a crime that is directly related to the practice of the profession.

(4) Making any misrepresentation for the purpose of obtaining a license, or violating any provision of this Act or its rules.

(5) Gross ~~Professional incompetence~~ or ~~gross~~ negligence in the rendering of genetic counseling services.

(6) Failure to provide genetic testing results and any requested information to a referring physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches, advanced practice nurse, or physician assistant ~~Gross~~ or ~~repeated~~ negligence.

(7) Aiding or assisting another person in violating any provision of this Act or any rules.

(8) Failing to provide information within 60 days in response to a written request made by the Department.

(9) Engaging in dishonorable, unethical, or unprofessional conduct of a character likely to deceive, defraud, or harm the public and violating the rules of professional conduct adopted by the Department.

(10) Failing to maintain the confidentiality of any information received from a client, unless otherwise authorized or required by law.

(10.5) Failure to maintain client records of services provided and provide copies to clients upon request.

(11) Exploiting a client for personal advantage, profit, or interest.

(12) Habitual or excessive use or addiction to alcohol, narcotics, stimulants, or any other chemical agent or drug which results in inability to practice with reasonable skill, judgment, or safety.

(13) Discipline by another jurisdiction, if at least one of the grounds for the discipline is the same or substantially equivalent to those set forth in this Section.

(14) Directly or indirectly giving to or receiving from any person, firm, corporation, partnership, or association any fee, commission, rebate, or other form of compensation for any professional service not actually rendered.

(15) A finding by the Department that the licensee,

after having the license placed on probationary status has violated the terms of probation.

(16) Failing to refer a client to other health care professionals when the licensee is unable or unwilling to adequately support or serve the client.

(17) Willfully filing false reports relating to a licensee's practice, including but not limited to false records filed with federal or State agencies or departments.

(18) Willfully failing to report an instance of suspected child abuse or neglect as required by the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

(19) Being named as a perpetrator in an indicated report by the Department of Children and Family Services pursuant to the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act, and upon proof by clear and convincing evidence that the licensee has caused a child to be an abused child or neglected child as defined in the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act.

(20) Physical or mental disability, including deterioration through the aging process or loss of abilities and skills which results in the inability to practice the profession with reasonable judgment, skill, or safety.

(21) Solicitation of professional services by using false or misleading advertising.

(22) Failure to file a return, or to pay the tax, penalty of interest shown in a filed return, or to pay any final assessment of tax, penalty or interest, as required by any tax Act administered by the Illinois Department of Revenue or any successor agency or the Internal Revenue Service or any successor agency.

(23) A finding that licensure has been applied for or obtained by fraudulent means.

(24) Practicing or attempting to practice under a name other than the full name as shown on the license or any other legally authorized name.

(25) Gross overcharging for professional services, including filing statements for collection of fees or monies for which services are not rendered.

(26) Providing genetic counseling services to individuals, couples, groups, or families without a referral from either a physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches, an advanced practice nurse who has a collaborative agreement with a collaborating physician that authorizes the advanced practice nurse to make referrals to a genetic counselor, or a physician assistant who has been delegated authority to make referrals to genetic counselors.

(b) The Department shall deny, without hearing, any application or renewal for a license under this Act to any person who has defaulted on an educational loan guaranteed by

the Illinois State Assistance Commission; however, the Department may issue a license or renewal if the person in default has established a satisfactory repayment record as determined by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

(c) The determination by a court that a licensee is subject to involuntary admission or judicial admission as provided in the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Code will result in an automatic suspension of his or her license. The suspension will end upon a finding by a court that the licensee is no longer subject to involuntary admission or judicial admission, the issuance of an order so finding and discharging the patient, and the determination of the Director that the licensee be allowed to resume professional practice.

(Source: P.A. 93-1041, eff. 9-29-04; 94-661, eff. 1-1-06.)

Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon becoming law.