



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development**

DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND
PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

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May 26, 2017

Dear licensees and interested parties:

Alaska's professional licensing statutes (AS 08.01.065) require the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing (CBPL) to "annually review each fee level to determine whether the regulatory costs of each occupation are approximately equal to fee collections related to that occupation." Alaska's licensing fee statutes go on to say, "If the review indicates that an occupation's fee collections and regulatory costs are not approximately equal, the department shall calculate fee adjustments and adopt regulations...to implement the adjustments."

The Division conducted a thorough fee analysis and reviewed the analysis with the Board of Professional Counselors at a regular meeting on May 4. The professional counselors' program has been in a financial deficit position for several years. In response to that deficit, licensing fees were raised in FY2012, FY2014, and again in FY2016. As a result of these increases, the program was propelled out of that deficit position. The Division and Board considered future cost increases as a result of department-wide reduction in UGF subsidies as well as the upcoming regulation projects forecasted by the board. After careful consideration of those costs, there was agreement that a reduction in fees would still be warranted. The Board agreed to the Division's recommendation of reducing the licensing fees for new and renewal applications for professional counselors by \$150 (23%) and supervisor fees by \$50 (25%). The proposed fee amounts are enclosed and can also be found on the Board's web page at <https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/ProfessionalCounselors.aspx>.

This fee proposal is entering a public comment period. The Division encourages all licensees and interested parties to comment on this proposal through the Division's Regulations Specialist, whose contact information is enclosed on the public notice. After the comment period closes and the Division reviews all comments received, the Division may adopt the regulation as drafted, may amend a proposed fee, or may withdraw the regulations in part or in its whole.

All comments received will be reviewed and taken into consideration prior to adopting the final regulations. The final decision will result in the fee to be implemented during the next licensing renewal.

Follow the instructions enclosed to make written comments during the public comment period. Comments must be addressed to Jun Maiquis, Regulations Specialist, PO Box 110806, Juneau, AK 99811, or RegulationsAndPublicComment@alaska.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Janey Hovenden".

Janey Hovenden
Director

Encl.

Chapter 02. General Occupational Licensing Functions.

(Words in **boldface and underlined** indicate language being added; words [CAPITALIZED AND BRACKETED] indicate language being deleted.)

12 AAC 02.325 is amended to read:

12 AAC 02.325. Board of Professional Counselors. The following fees are established for professional counselors:

- (1) application fee for any initial license, \$200;
- (2) license fee for all or part of any initial biennial license period, **\$500** [\$650];
- (3) any biennial license renewal fee, **\$500** [\$650];
- (4) any board-approved supervisor fee, **\$150** [\$200]. (Eff. 5/5/99, Register 150;

am 8/12/2001, Register 159; am 6/13/2002, Register 162; am 8/8/2003, Register 167; am 7/9/2005, Register 175; am 9/17/2011, Register 199; am 9/7/2013, Register 207; am 9/20/2015, Register 215; am ____/____/____, Register ____)

Authority: AS 08.01.065