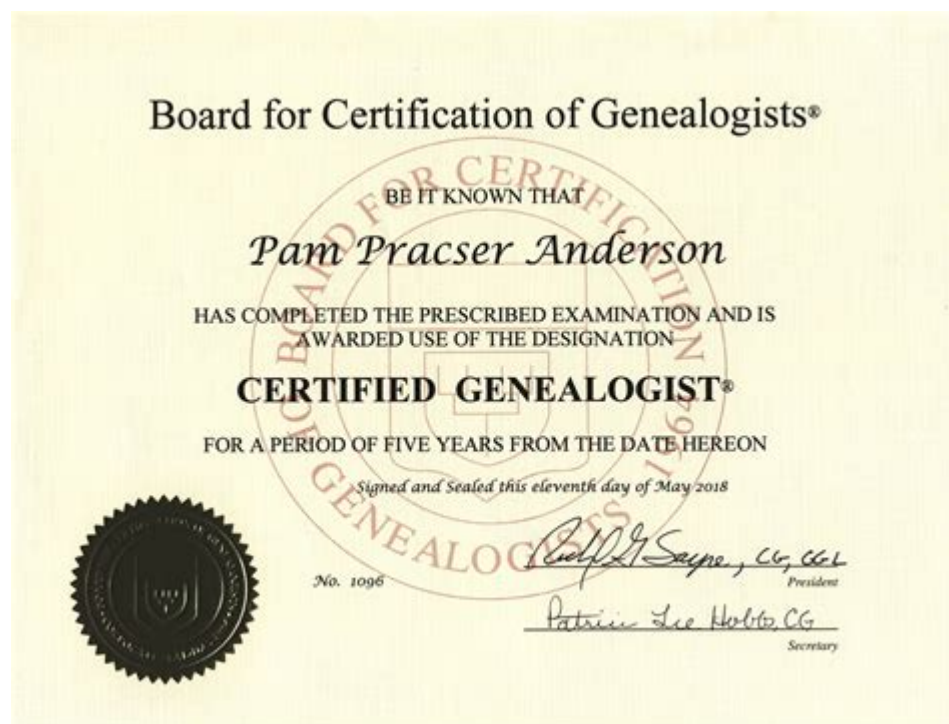# Board Of Certification Of Genealogists

Board of Certification of Genealogists (BCG) is a professional organization dedicated to the certification and continuing education of genealogists. Founded in 1977, the BCG plays a crucial role in upholding the standards of genealogical research and ensuring that individuals engaged in family history research maintain a high level of professionalism and ethical conduct. This article will explore the mission, certification process, benefits of certification, and the importance of BCG in the field of genealogy.

Mission and Goals of BCG

The Board of Certification of Genealogists aims to promote high standards in genealogical research through certification, education, and ethical practices. The organization seeks to accomplish several key goals:

1. Establishing Standards: BCG sets rigorous standards for genealogical research, ensuring that practitioners adhere to established guidelines and best practices.

2. Providing Certification: The BCG offers a certification program that recognizes qualified genealogists, enhancing their credibility and professional standing.

3. Promoting Education: BCG encourages continuous education and professional development among its members to keep pace with advancements in genealogical research and technology.

4. Fostering Ethical Conduct: By emphasizing ethical standards, BCG ensures that genealogists approach their work with integrity and respect for the privacy of individuals

and families.

Certification Process

Becoming a certified genealogist through BCG involves a comprehensive and structured process. The certification is aimed at individuals who demonstrate a high level of expertise and professionalism in genealogical research. Here's an overview of the steps involved:

Eligibility Requirements

To initiate the certification process, applicants must meet specific eligibility criteria:

- Experience: Applicants should have a minimum of five years of research experience.
- Education: While formal education in genealogy is not mandatory, applicants who have completed coursework or training in genealogy may have an advantage.
- Portfolio: Submission of a portfolio showcasing a variety of genealogical research projects is required.

Application Submission

Once the eligibility requirements are met, the following steps must be completed:

1. Application Form: Fill out the BCG application form, providing personal information, educational background, and research experience.

2. Portfolio Preparation: Prepare a portfolio that includes:
- A research report
- A client report
- A case study
- An extended family group sheet

3. Fee Payment: Pay the certification fee, which varies depending on membership status.

Review Process

After submission, the BCG board evaluates the portfolio based on its adherence to professional standards. The review process includes:

- Peer Review: Experienced genealogists review the submitted materials and provide feedback.
- Decision Notification: Applicants receive notification of the board's decision, which may include acceptance, requests for additional information, or denial.

Recertification

Certification is not permanent; BCG requires genealogists to recertify every five years. The recertification process includes:

- Continuing Education: Proof of continued education in genealogical research.
- Updated Portfolio: Submission of an updated portfolio reflecting recent work and adherence to current standards.

Benefits of BCG Certification

Achieving certification from the BCG offers numerous benefits to genealogists, enhancing both their careers and the field of genealogy as a whole.

Increased Credibility

Being certified by BCG is a mark of distinction. It signifies that the genealogist has met rigorous standards and is committed to maintaining high levels of professionalism. This credibility is essential for attracting clients and gaining the trust of the genealogical community.

Professional Development

The certification process encourages genealogists to engage in continuous learning and professional development. This commitment to education helps genealogists stay updated on new research methodologies, technologies, and ethical practices.

Networking Opportunities

Certified genealogists gain access to a network of peers, mentors, and professionals in the field. This network provides opportunities for collaboration, sharing best practices, and mutual support.

Enhanced Job Opportunities

Many employers and clients seek genealogists with certification from reputable organizations like BCG. Certification can open doors to job opportunities in various sectors, including historical societies, government agencies, and private firms.

Importance of BCG in Genealogy

The Board of Certification of Genealogists plays a significant role in elevating the standards of genealogical research. Its contributions to the field include:

Setting Industry Standards

BCG establishes guidelines for ethical conduct and research practices, ensuring that genealogists provide accurate and reliable information. These standards help maintain the integrity of the field and protect the interests of clients and individuals whose information is being researched.

Promoting Public Awareness

Through its certification program and outreach efforts, BCG raises public awareness about the importance of quality genealogical research. This awareness can lead to increased interest in genealogy as a profession and hobby, attracting new practitioners to the field.

Supporting Research Initiatives

BCG often collaborates with other genealogical organizations and institutions to support research initiatives and projects. Such collaborations can lead to advancements in genealogical research methodologies and technologies.

Conclusion

The Board of Certification of Genealogists is instrumental in promoting high standards and ethical practices within the field of genealogy. By providing a rigorous certification process and encouraging continuous education, BCG ensures that genealogists are equipped to meet the demands of an ever-evolving field. The benefits of certification, including increased credibility, professional development, networking opportunities, and enhanced job prospects, make BCG an essential resource for anyone serious about pursuing a career in genealogical research. As the interest in genealogy continues to grow, the role of organizations like BCG will remain crucial in shaping the future of this fascinating field.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the purpose of the Board of Certification of Genealogists (BCG)?

The BCG aims to establish and uphold standards of competency and ethics in genealogical research, ensuring that genealogists provide accurate and reliable services.

How can one become certified by the Board of Certification of Genealogists?

To become certified, an applicant must demonstrate their genealogical skills through a portfolio of work, pass a written exam, and adhere to the BCG's code of ethics.

What are the benefits of being certified by the BCG?

Certification by the BCG can enhance a genealogist's credibility, improve job prospects, and provide recognition among peers and clients for adhering to professional standards.

Is BCG certification recognized internationally?

Yes, BCG certification is recognized internationally, making it a respected credential for genealogists working in various countries and contexts.

What resources does the BCG provide for genealogists seeking certification?

The BCG offers various resources including guidelines for certification, study materials, webinars, and workshops to help genealogists prepare for the certification process.

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Explore the Board of Certification of Genealogists and discover how certification can enhance your genealogy career. Learn more about the benefits today!

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