



COUNTY COMMISSION

BALDWIN COUNTY

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Baldwin County Commission GINA Notice

The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) prohibits collection of genetic information by both employers and health plans, and defines genetic information very broadly. Asking an individual to provide family medical history is considered collection of genetic information, even if there is no reward for responding (or penalty for failure to respond). In addition, a question about an individual's current health status is considered to be a request for genetic information if it is made in a way likely to result in obtaining genetic information (e.g., family medical history). Wellness programs that require completion of health risk assessments or other forms that request health information may violate the collection prohibition unless they fit within an exception to the prohibition for inadvertent acquisition of such information. This exception applies if the request does not violate any laws, does not ask for genetic information and includes a warning against providing genetic information in any responses. An employer administering a wellness program must include this notice with the health incentive program notice.