

Informed Consent

Welcome to my practice. As you know, I am a practitioner of holistic nutrition. I am not a licensed physician, nor are nutrition services licensed by the state. The concept of nutrition is that when properly grown and prepared, foods and the nutrients found in foods, can be supportive of health, enhancing quality of life and well-being. As a practitioner of holistic nutrition, my services include diet and nutrition evaluation, individualized guidance appropriate to your lifestyle and environment, and supplement support.

I have been practicing nutrition for over 10 years. I have a Master of Science degree in Applied Nutrition from Canisius College and a holistic Nutrition Consultant Certificate from Bauman College. I am a member on National Association of Nutrition Professionals (nanp.org) and I am required to complete continuing education each year.

To use my services, California state law requires that you acknowledge receipt of the information provided in this form and that you sign it. You will receive a copy. I will keep the original in my records for at least three years.

My services in nutrition are complementary to healing arts that are licensed by the State of California. Under Sections 2053.5 and 2053.6 of California's Business and Professions Code, I can offer you these services, subject to requirements and restrictions that are described fully on the *patient information* sheet (see reverse).

If you ever have any concerns about the nature of my services or our work together, please contact me right away. I recommend that you inform your medical doctor that you are receiving nutrition services.

Acknowledgement and Consent to Receive Services:

I have read and understand the above disclosure about the nutrition services offered by Melissa Ford Cox and her training and education. I have discussed with Melissa the nature of the services to be provided. I understand that Melissa is not a licensed physician and that nutrition services are not licensed by the state. I understand it is my responsibility to maintain a relationship for myself with a medical doctor or licensed health provider.

Cancellation Policy:

I have consented to use the services offered by Melissa and agree to be personally responsible for the fees of Melissa in connection with the services provided to me. I will provide 24-hour notice if an appointment must be missed or pay for the missed session in full. I understand that this policy is to honor the time required to prepare for the scheduled session.

Client Name: _____

Signed: _____
(client/parent/conservator/guardian)

Date: _____

CALIFORNIA SENATE BILL SB-577

WHAT IT MEANS FOR PATIENTS

California Senate Bill SB-577, which was signed by the governor in September 2002, has profound implications for the practice of alternative forms of health care in California. SB-577 enables alternative and complementary health care practitioners to provide and advertise their services legally. However, they must also comply with certain requirements specified within the bill.

What does Senate Bill SB-577 mean for you, the patient?

SB-577 gives you access to alternative and complementary health care practitioners. You must be given information about the nature of treatment and the practitioner's qualifications. Feel free to ask a practitioner any question you might have about your treatment. Check to see if your practitioner has been certified by a professional membership society. In addition, tell your doctor about any alternative treatment you are pursuing. You can also request that your licensed and unlicensed health care providers communicate with each other and work collaboratively to meet your health care needs.

SB-577 helps to protect you. SB-577 requires unlicensed alternative health care practitioners to follow certain guidelines and restrictions.

Here are the things that unlicensed alternative practitioners are NOT allowed to do:

- Perform any form of surgery or any procedure that punctures your skin or harmfully invades your body.
- Use X-ray radiation.
- Prescribe prescription drugs, or recommending that you discontinue drugs that were prescribed by a licensed physician.
- Set fractures.
- Treat wounds with electrotherapy.
- Put you at risk of great bodily harm, serious physical or mental illness, or death.
- Imply in any way that they are licensed physicians.

In addition, an unlicensed alternative practitioner **MUST DO** the following things:

- Provide you with a statement, written in plain language that includes the following information: (1) that they are not a licensed physician and that their services are not licensed by the state; (2) a brief and clear description of the kind of services they provide and the reasoning behind it; and (3) a description of their education, training, and experience.
- Ask you to sign an acknowledgement that you received the above written statement, and provide you with a copy of it. They must also keep a copy of your signed acknowledgement for three years.