

Key Elements of in Informed Consent form for Energy Medicine Practitioners

Support Material for Risk Management Video Series presented by
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Please note that you might not use each and every one of these.
Pick and choose what fits your practice.

Title section

May include title of the Form

- Consent for (modality name)
- Or Client Consent for (modality name)

If you have a blended practice with several modalities you may want to use your name or business name instead of listing a particular modality.

- Client Consent for Services or Healing Sessions with Lauri Smith.

Or keep it more generic:

- CLIENT RIGHTS CONSENT FORM: Please read and sign below.

Your name and contact information should be listed on the form and could be either at the top or bottom.

Status and Scope of Practice

Status can be that you are a student, a graduate, or certified practitioner of your particular modality. Your clients will most likely want to know essential information about you, such as your background in healing work and your training and education.

- A Consent Form offers specific information about the kinds of services you can legally and ethically provide as well as any limitations. For example, if touch is outside the scope of your professional practice, or any other professional limitations you may have. Inform the client of your training and the limitations to your work.

Discuss your Scope of Practice:

- If you are not in a medical profession that generally includes the therapeutic use of touch in its scope of practice, be certain to explain your legal status in your state and locality and your adherence to this Scope of Practice.

- If you have a professional license, for example in the mental health field, explain how touch is either included or restricted in your Scope of Practice.
- ALL Consent Forms should provide a clear expression which states that your specific modality is never meant to replace care from a qualified health provider or practitioner. Clearly state that you are not trained to diagnose illness, make recommendations involving pharmaceutical drugs or surgery, or handle medical emergencies unless you have specific training for these that would make them within your Scope of Practice.

Basic description of your modality that you practice

Give a basic simple description and or definition of your modality. If you have a practice that uses more than one modality, describe the ones you will be using with this client.

Discuss the research and history of use of the modality you use to the degree that this seems helpful and appropriate.

They might also want to know more about the nature and history of your particular modality and why it is considered energetic, holistic, complementary and/or alternative.

Description of a session or treatment

Inform and explain to the client all of the procedures which will be used and describe the order in which you will do them. Discuss the length of a typical session and the environment of your treatment room. It is really important to describe the type of touch that is to be expected in a session. Any touch, other than a handshake, needs clear permission from the client before it is given.

Benefits and risk of your modality

Describe the reasonably expected benefits if possible.

Describe any reasonable or known and foreseeable risks or discomforts possible with this modality.

Your energetic educational training, credentials and experience

Briefly list your education, training and experience as it relates to the services you are providing. These can be listed as bullet points.

Confidentiality

Include a statement describing the extent to which confidentiality of records identifying the client will be maintained as well as the exclusions to confidentiality.

Other Possible Inclusions:

- How you safe guard their files and how long you keep your files.
- Do you allow your clients to see their files?
- Know your state and federal laws and HIPPA regulations in regards to releasing confidential information to other parties.
- Your requirements to report threat of serious harm to self or others

Stating the limitations of confidentiality at the beginning helps the client to know what to expect from their practitioner.

Client Rights

Provide notice that the client may discontinue services, change consent, or leave at any time. Be sure to inform them that if at any time they feel discomfort to let it be known so a change in the treatment can be made.

Acknowledgement

Include a statement acknowledging that they have read, discussed and understand the nature of your services and your Scope of Practice.

This is a great place to use statements like:

- I was informed...
- I understand...
- I hereby agree...
- It was explained to me....
- My questions have been answered...

Liability Waiver

- Most insurance companies require a Release of Liability Clause be included in a written Informed Consent document in order for the practitioner to obtain Professional Liability Insurance.
- This Liability Waiver is usually described in your liability application or policy. Typically this Waiver is placed towards the end of the Consent Form in the acknowledgment section.

Fee payment and client responsibilities

- Explain the fees, fee policies, and payment structures for your services. This may include when you expect payment, type of payment accepted, extra charges for a returned check or insufficient funds, acceptance of insurance claims or flex account policies, meeting time and place, policy for no shows, telephone and email communication, recommendations, and referrals
- You may want to add a section about client responsibilities which include homework expectations, client responsibilities, etc.
- Example statements: The client will devote time and energy to healing. The client will follow through with treatment recommendations. This commitment strengthens your chances of reaching the goals of treatment that you and your practitioner develop.

Consent

I fully consent to the services offered by (practitioner name) by signing below:

Signature area with date and client contact information

It is very important that your client signs and dates the form. Make a copy of the form for your client and put one in their client file.

- You may want to add a line for emergency contact information
- If you are working with minors, the adult parent or guardian needs to sign the Consent Form.

Disclaimer: This document is meant to raise questions, educate and create discussion and dialogue around the ethical and legal issues of teaching, learning, studying or practicing alternative and complementary energy healing modalities. Nothing in this document or video series is being offered as legal advice or legal counsel. You are advised to seek an attorney for any of your professional legal issues, concerns or needs. Copyright © 2014