

Senate Bill 577 Disclosure Form

In September of 2002, the California legislature passed Senate Bill 577, which requires all non-licensed health care practitioners in the state of California to disclose information to their clients about their practice. This bill, which took effect January 1, 2003, is really a consumer protection bill - designed to ensure that consumers of non-licensed health care practices have sufficient information about the practitioner they're working with, before entering into a working agreement.

My method of treatment, Homeopathy, is alternative or complementary to healing arts that are licensed by the State of California. The State of California, as in many other states, does not offer licenses in Homeopathic medicine. Under Sections 2053.5 and 2053.6 of California's Business and Professions Code (commonly known as the Medicine Practice Act) I may offer services in Homeopathy as long as I meet certain requirements and restrictions, which are described on the following pages.

Under the terms of Section 2053.5 of the California Business and Professions Code (a.k.a. Medicine Practice Act), non-licensed health care practitioners may offer services so long as they do not:

- (1) Conduct surgery or any other procedure on another person that punctures the skin or harmfully invades the body.
- (2) Administer or prescribe x-ray radiation to another person.
- (3) Prescribe or administer legend drugs or controlled substances to another person.
- (4) Recommend the discontinuance of legend drugs or controlled substances prescribed by an appropriately licensed practitioner.
- (5) Willfully diagnose and treat a physical or mental condition of any person under circumstances or conditions that cause or create risk of great bodily harm, serious physical or mental illness, or death.
- (6) Set fractures.
- (7) Treat lacerations or abrasions through electrotherapy.
- (8) Hold out, state, indicate, advertise, or imply to a client or prospective client that he or she is a physician, a surgeon, or a physician and surgeon.

A person who advertises any services that are not unlawful under Section 2051, 2052, or 2053 pursuant to subdivision (a) shall disclose in the advertisement that he or she is not licensed by the state as a healing arts practitioner.

Section 2053.6 is added to the Business and Professions Code, specifies that:

(A) A person who provides services pursuant to Section 2053.5 that are not unlawful under Section 2051, 2052, or 2053 shall, prior to providing those services, do the following:

(1) Disclose to the client in a written statement using plain language the following information:

- That he or she is not a licensed physician.
- That the treatment is alternative or complementary to healing arts services licensed by the state.
- That the services to be provided are not licensed by the state.
- The nature of the services to be provided.
- The theory of treatment upon which the services are based.
- His or her educational, training, experiences and other qualifications regarding the services to be provided.

(2) Obtain a written acknowledgement from the client stating that he or she has been provided with the information described in paragraph (1). The client shall be provided with a copy of the written acknowledgement, which shall be maintained by the person providing the service for three years.

(B) The information required by subdivision (A) shall be provided in a language that the client understands.

I, _____, have received and have read this notice in full:

Signature

Date