

Laying on of Hands Ceremony

by Chief Talks With Trees

The Laying on of Hands is a sacred and powerful Ceremony best performed by more than one qualified Medicine Person. It is used to heal or pray over an individual for various physical ailments, spiritual issues, or emotional needs. This service is often used in conjunction with other Ceremonies, especially the Holy Anointing Ceremony.

There is no right way or wrong way to perform this Ceremony; however, there are certain things that should be considered, like the beliefs of the individual requesting the Ceremony. Most often there are two or more Elders (Medicine Persons) present. The collective energy and faith lend its power to such a Ceremony.

The room and each participant should be smudged prior to the beginning of this Sacred Ceremony so the space is cleared of any negative energy. (Only participants with good feelings towards all in attendance should participate.) Once the space is cleared, the Medicine People will ask the presence of the Great Spirit to attend for the Laying on of Hands Ceremony. This is either done by a single individual or as a group together.

The Elders will then gather around the participant and place their hands on the shoulder, head, or appropriate area of the individual requesting the Ceremony. (If desired, this service can also be performed as an energy healing where the hands do not touch the participant at all, such as in the fashion of Reiki.) The Medicine Person in charge will then pray out loud to the Creator for the benefit of the one requesting the Ceremony. The payer is not set and should reflect the beliefs of the one requesting the Ceremony. For example if an individual has health concerns and believes in God but does not specifically have any other beliefs than that, the simple prayer may go something like this: "Oh Creator! We pray for your child (or individual's name) through our faith. We ask you to for assistance in their healing." The person praying should then follow the Spirit and pay as directed for the individual. After the prayer others in the Ceremony may also pray as directed by the Spirit or the one requesting the Ceremony.

*There is no Certification for this Ceremony. Those wishing to be the receiver of the Laying on of Hands Ceremony should express their desires to a Medicine Person. Any Medicine Person that feels called by the Great Spirit may perform or attend this Ceremony. Any specialty training, like Reiki, should only be performed by Medicine People that have competence in that art.