

# WELCOME to the Acupuncture Practice of THOMAS ÖST, M.A., L.Ac.

## CONSENT TO TREATMENT

I, the undersigned, understand that methods of treatment used in this practice may include, but are not limited to, acupuncture, moxibustion, cupping, electrical stimulation, herbal therapy, massage, Qi Gong, and nutritional counseling.

I understand that acupuncture, moxibustion, electrical stimulation, cupping and pricking are all safe methods of treatment. Potential risks include temporary bruising, swelling, bleeding, numbness and tingling, and soreness at the needling site that may last a few days. Unusual risks of acupuncture include dizziness, fainting or nerve damage. Infection is possible, although the clinic uses alcohol and sterile disposable needles and maintains a safe and clean environment. Potential risks of moxibustion health therapy are burns, blistering, or scarring. Temporary bruising or redness lasting a few days is a common side effect of cupping and gua sha, or spooning. I fully understand that there is no implied or stated guarantee of success or effectiveness of a specific treatment or series of treatments.

I will notify the acupuncturist should I become pregnant or if I am in the process of trying to get pregnant so that my practitioner can avoid points and herbs that could induce miscarriage. Otherwise, Chinese medicine treatment can be very beneficial in the pregnancy and birthing process.

I understand that herbal and nutritional supplements recommended to me by my acupuncturist are safe in the recommended doses. Large doses of herbs taken without my practitioner's recommendation may be toxic, and some herbs are inappropriate during pregnancy. Some possible side effects of herbs are nausea, gas, stomachache, vomiting, headache, diarrhea, rashes, hives and tingling of the tongue. I understand that I must stop taking any herbs and notify my acupuncturist as soon as I experience any discomfort or adverse reactions.

I understand that my acupuncturist may review my medical records and lab reports, but all my records will be kept confidential. If it becomes necessary to share my health information, this will be handled in accordance with the stipulations detailed in the Notice of Privacy Practices document that has been provided to me, and of which I have acknowledged receipt.

I understand that I can discuss risks and benefits further with my practitioner before signing if I so choose. However, I do not expect my practitioner to be able to anticipate and explain all possible risks and complications of treatment. I rely on the practitioner to exercise his or her judgment in my best interest during the course of treatment, based upon the facts then known.

I recognize that scheduling an appointment involves the reservation of time specifically for me, and that consequently, a minimum of 24 hours notice is required to reschedule or cancel an appointment. Unless otherwise agreed to in advance, the full fee will be charged for sessions missed without such advance notification. I understand that most insurance companies do not reimburse for missed sessions.

In signing this form, I acknowledge any inherent risks, and give my consent for treatment, payment and healthcare operations received, incurred or carried out at this practice.

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Patient Signature

Date