

∞ Nature Cures Naturopathic Clinic ∞

Dr. Cathy Picard, Naturopathic Physician
250 Eddie Dowling Hwy., N.Smithfield, RI 02896
Phone: 401-597-0477 Fax: 401-597-0959
www.drcathypicard.com

Complementary and Alternative Health Care Client Bill of Rights

Rhode Island State Law requires that all clients and alternative medicine practitioners understand and accept the following form.

Name of Practitioner and Location:

Cathy A. Picard N.D.
Nature Cures Clinic
250 Eddie Dowling Highway Unit 4
North Smithfield, RI 02896

Experience and Training:

Cathy Picard is a Naturopathic Physician who graduated from The National College of Naturopathic Medicine, a nationally and regionally accredited medical school. Naturopathic medicine is a unique profession in that it integrates the training and knowledge of conventional medicine into a treatment model based on the laws of nature. After earning a bachelors degree and completing pre-med requirements, the student attends one of six accredited four year naturopathic medical schools in North America. The curriculum includes courses in basic sciences such as anatomy, physiology, biochemistry and pathology as well as all of the clinical sciences such as cardiology, endocrinology, gynecology, radiology etc. The curriculum also includes three years of clinical skills internship under the tutelage and supervision of licensed doctors. The training includes the study of homeopathy, clinical nutrition, botanical medicine, hydrotherapy, physical medicine, counseling and holistic medical theory. Using this knowledge and methodology, the naturopathic physician works with patients to restore health from the inside out, without the use of harmful drugs or needless surgeries. Naturopathic physicians often find that conditions that do not respond to conventional medical treatment are effectively remedied using natural means.

Cathy Picard is a licensed Naturopathic physician in the states of Vermont and Oregon. Rhode Island does not currently have a licensing law regarding the practice of Naturopathic medicine. This is largely due to strong opposition from unlicensable alternative health care providers who fear the impact such a law would have on their business. Because of this lack of legislation, the scope of Naturopathic practice is limited and much of what Naturopathic physicians are trained to do is curtailed. At this time, the Rhode Island Association of Naturopathic Physicians is in the process of creating standards of practice in accordance with direction from the Rhode Island Department of Health. It is our sincere hope that the future will see Rhode Island as a state that acknowledges the profession of Naturopathic Medicine as practiced by fully trained and board certified practitioners. This would likely lead to an influx of licensed naturopathic physicians to the state of Rhode Island and safe healthcare alternatives for its residents. If you are interested in supporting licensing efforts, please speak with Dr. Picard or visit www.naturopathic.org for more information.

In accordance with Rhode Island state law I must provide you with the following:

“The State of Rhode Island has not adopted any educational and training standards for unlicensed complementary and alternative health care practitioners. This statement of credentials is for informational purposes only.”

If you have any concerns, file a complaint with Nature Cures Clinic. If your complaint has not been resolved within a reasonable time, you may file a complaint with the State of Rhode Island at the following address:

Office of Health Professionals Regulation
3 Capitol Hill, Room 205
Providence, RI 02908
(401) 222 5700

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Fees: Office visits and physical medicine treatments are based on a fee of \$120/hour. Nature Cures Clinic is unable to bill insurance at this time. Payment is due for goods and services at time of delivery. If cancellation is necessary, please give 24 hours notice, otherwise a fee of \$50 will be billed for appointments missed with less than 24hrs noticed at the discretion of the physician.

Right to know of Change of Service or Change of Charges: You will be notified of any changes of services or charges.

Theoretical Approach: Naturopathic medicine does not treat disease. The whole person is treated and as health is regained, the symptoms of disease resolve.

Right to know assessments and recommendations: You have the right to know my assessment and recommendations; they will be given to you at each visit. This includes the duration of treatment. If this is unclear to you, please ask.

Right to courteous service: You can expect courteous service to be free of verbal, physical or sexual abuse by your practitioner and her staff.

Right to confidentiality: Your records and transactions with this office are confidential. This information will not be released unless you authorize it as required by law. You have access to request your information at any time.

Right to access other community services: You have the right to access other alternative providers. Feel free to ask for recommendations.

Right to selecting and changing practitioners: You have the right to freely choose or change practitioners at any time. If you choose to change we will help with your transfer to another practitioner. If there will be a change in the provider of services, you have a right to a coordinated transfer.

Right to refuse service: You are free to refuse services unless otherwise provided by law.

Right to freedom from retaliation: You may assert your rights as described in this client's bill of rights at any time without retaliation.

Adjunctive care: Naturopathic Physicians are not yet considered primary care physicians in Rhode Island. It is recommended that you continue services with your primary care physician.

Signature

Print Name

Date

Practitioner Signature

Print Name

Date