



Somatic Experiencing® Informed Consent

When appropriate, and according to my clinical judgment, I will use Somatic Experiencing (SE) in our work together. SE is a naturalistic approach to the resolution and healing of trauma developed by Dr. Peter Levine and is supported by research. It is based upon the observation that wild prey animals, though threatened routinely, are rarely traumatized. Animals in the wild utilize innate mechanisms to regulate and discharge the high levels of energy arousal associated with defensive survival behaviors. These mechanisms provide animals with a built-in "immunity" to trauma that enables them to return to normal in the aftermath of highly "charged" life-threatening experiences.

- SE employs awareness of body sensation to help people "renegotiate" and heal rather than re-live or re-enact trauma.
- SE's guidance of the bodily "felt sense," allows the highly aroused survival energies to be safely experienced and gradually discharged.
- SE may employ touch in support of the renegotiation process.
- SE "titrates" experience (breaks down into small, incremental steps), rather than evoking catharsis - which can overwhelm the regulatory mechanisms of the organism.

For more information about SE please note the following references:

- Levine, P. and Frederick, A. (1997). *Waking the Tiger: Healing Trauma: The Innate Capacity to Transform Overwhelming Experiences*. Berkeley, CA: N. Atlantic Books.
- Kline, M. and Levine, P. (2007). *Trauma Through A Child's Eyes: Awakening the Ordinary Miracle of Healing*. Berkeley, CA: North Atlantic Books.
- Levine, P., *In An Unspoken Voice: How the Body Releases Trauma and Restores Goodness*. North Atlantic Press. 2010 For further references and information online about SE go to <http://www.traumahealing.com>



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SE can result in a number of benefits to you, such as relief of traumatic stress symptoms, increased resiliency, and resourcefulness. Like any other treatment it may also have unintended negative “side effects.” It is important that you are aware that there are other forms of body-oriented and somatic psychotherapy. The United States Association of Body Psychotherapy (www.usabp.org) is a good source of information about other modalities. Obviously, there are also many non-somatic focused forms of psychotherapy and counseling that you can choose from. As with all therapy, it is your responsibility to tell me when you are uncomfortable with any parts of the treatment. If you have any questions about SE or other treatments, please ask and I will do my best to answer your questions in full. You have the right to refuse or terminate treatment at all times, or to refuse techniques or interventions I may propose or employ.

If you are completing this Intake Form on paper or through email, please sign here acknowledging that you have read and agree to all of the policies detailed above.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____