

Placenta Encapsulation

Heritage Birthing Services Description & Contract

Placenta Encapsulation Description

Placenta encapsulation is the process of preparing the mother's placenta after the birth of her baby(ies) (by separating the membranes and umbilical cord from the placenta, rinsing and draining maternal and fetal blood) and dehydrating it to then be ground and placed into capsules for the mother to ingest as she sees fit. The ingestion of the placenta is known as "placentophagy." The purpose of placentophagy by the mother is to reintroduce the beneficial vitamins, minerals, hormones, proteins, and other nutrients to her body following labor and birth to help restore a more balanced body function, prevent "baby blues" and the more serious postpartum depression, increase breast-milk production, shorten healing time, increase maternal energy levels, and provide an overall feeling of wellness to aid in the transition between pregnancy and the early postpartum period in the woman who has just given birth.

Limitations and Disclaimers

Heritage Birthing Services is not a pharmacy, pharmaceutical representative, holistic practitioner, herbalist, or medical doctor. Benefits of placentophagy are supported by ongoing research but have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration. Placentophagy, (as it pertains to this contract agreement, is for natural nutritional supplementation and is intended solely for ingestion by the mother who has birthed the placenta(s) and not for her family members, friends, or other individuals), is a natural nutritional supplement and as such cannot be guaranteed to produce specific results.

_____ client initials

Service Description

Heritage Birthing Services (hereinafter referred to as HBS) will pick up the client's placenta(s) at the agreed upon time and location, depending on previous agreed upon arrangements made between HBS and said client, to be outlined in the "Client Responsibility" section below.

Proper cleanliness and preparation precautions for ingesting the placenta will be carried out by HBS to ensure the highest quality of placenta encapsulation possible for the age and storage methods of the placenta(s) before the encapsulation process. HBS will deliver the finished encapsulated placenta pills in a timely fashion to the place specified by the client (listed here: _____), or arrangements will be made for the client to pick up the finished placenta pills from HBS on the day and location discussed and agreed upon by both parties.

HBS will provide a detailed written explanation of the proper storing and handling of the finished placenta pills and suggestions for daily ingestion recommendations. HBS is not liable for any undesired results should these instructions not be followed.

Client Responsibility

It is the client's responsibility to notify HBS as soon after the birth as possible (preferably the same-day as the birth itself) to request pick-up of the placenta(s) by HBS at the location previously agreed upon by both parties (_____). Failure to do so may result in delayed placenta preparation and encapsulation and may cause decreased potency of nutrients, hormones, and other beneficial attributes of the placenta(s), and even spoilage of the placenta(s) which would render it unusable for encapsulation.

It is also the client's responsibility to discuss the release of her placenta(s) after her birth from the establishment where she delivers and to ensure proper storage of her placenta(s) in a refrigerator or cooler with the placenta(s) placed on ice until it can be picked up or delivered to HBS for preparation and encapsulation.
_____ client initials

It is also the client's responsibility to provide HBS with proof they are clear from any blood-borne illness(es) or other health issues that may become infected with through contact of bodily fluids (specifically maternal and fetal blood and amniotic fluid), such as HIV, hepatitis, STD's, etc.
_____ client initials

Fees HBS Encapsulation Service includes:

- Pick-up of placenta(s) to be encapsulated within a 60 mile radius of HBS office
- The full placenta preparation and encapsulation process
- Proper storage container of the completed placenta pills
- Written instructions for proper storage and handling of the finished placenta pills
- Suggestions for ingestion amounts
- Delivery of the finished placenta pills to the client within 48-72 hours after it has been received at the agreed upon location by both parties, or to be picked up from HBS by the client at the date and location agreed upon by both parties.

_____ HBS initials
_____ client initials

The above outlined HBS Encapsulation Service is provided for a total fee of \$150.00. If you are using HBS for Doula Services also the fee for encapsulation is \$100.00.

If multiple payments are to be made by the client, they shall be outlined and initialed here by HBS and the client.

The balance of the total fee shall be paid in full no later than at pick-up of the placenta, unless otherwise specified here:_____

_____ client initials

Refunds

The policy of refund of payment is as follows:

- If the client chooses to terminate the contract, thereby voiding the agreement for placenta encapsulation by HBS, the client must contact HBS to terminate the contract BEFORE HBS acquires the placenta(s) originally intended for encapsulation in order to receive a full refund of any monies paid to HBS by the client.
- If the client chooses to terminate the contract after HBS has already acquired the client's placenta(s) for the encapsulation process but contacts HBS BEFORE the encapsulation process has begun, a handling fee of \$50 will be owed to HBS (if a greater amount than \$50 has already been paid to HBS by the client, HBS will refund the difference.) HBS will then return the non-encapsulated placenta(s) to the client so that the client may dispose of the placenta(s) properly.
- If the client decides that she does not want the finished placenta pills AFTER HBS has begun the encapsulation process, or if the process has been completed, the client will not be refunded any monies already paid to HBS and will owe HBS the balance of the fee previously agreed upon if the balance is still owed (i.e. no refund or waiving of fees will be made).

In signing this Contract, you agree that you have read and understand the Service Descriptions and Agreement for Heritage Birthing Services Placenta Encapsulation Service and that you agree to the terms and conditions outlined therein, as well as the stated fee.

Client's Printed Name

Client's Phone Number

Client's Email Address

Client's Signature

Date